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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Do you support the proposal to create a Marine Monument in the northern islands?

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INSIDE



Storm Aftermath

Crews hunted for survivors or bodies in piles of debris after tornadoes and storms rumbled across the region.

NATION...Page 15

Boat Sinks

A Red Cross boat carrying rice and drinking water for cyclone victims sank Sunday.

ASIA...Page 16



Jenna Weds

President Bush spent months joking about being a father of the bride, but on Sunday he was downright wistful.

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APIL backs \$30M 'bridge to sustainability' PAGE 2

Yana, Atalig slapped with \$6,900 fine, costs. PAGE 3

Visitor arrivals up nearly 21 percent in April

By MARK RABAGO

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ASSISTANT EDITOR

The local tourism industry greeted Northwest Airlines'

announcement that it will be adding daily nighttime flights from Narita this June with more positive news as visitor arrivals to CNMI posted double-digit growth last month.

According to the latest report from the Marianas Visitors Authority, April arrivals soared 20.98 percent to 31,800 tourists, compared to the 26,286 that came and visited the Common-

wealth in April 2007.

The nearly 21-percent rise in visitor arrivals is the first time in months the islands experienced double-digit growth and the spike is the highest in

recent years.

Arrival numbers from Japan were also a pleasant surprise in April as the CNMI's No. 1 source market recorded an in-

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Fitia! takes over CPA

By AGNES E. DONATO

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REPORTER



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Hundreds of tourists wait inside the departure area of Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitia! has placed the Commonwealth Ports Authority under his direct control amid a possible bank takeover for violation of bond terms. The move suspends the CPA board of directors.

The administration said the executive order became necessary because the CPA board of directors had been unable to muster a quorum for a special

meeting to act on urgent measure relating to CPA's bond indenture agreement, of which the Bank of Guam is the bond trustee.

"The intended goal of [Executive Order] 08-03 is to implement those measures that the



Fitia!

board was considering in order to ensure compliance with the Bond Indenture; to preserve the fiscal integrity of CPA as an autonomous agency; and to

maintain the entity's stability for an interim period," stated a media release issued by the Governor's Office.

See FITIAL on Page 4

Gas prices up, diesel hits \$5 mark

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE

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REPORTER

With crude oil prices hovering at \$126 a barrel, it was only a matter of time before local oil firms adjust their prices and it finally happened yesterday, with diesel breaching the \$5 mark—a first in CNMI history.

Saipan Tribune learned that effective at 2pm yesterday, Mobil Oil Marianas increased its prices for regular gasoline by 12 cents, super by eight cents, and diesel by 12 cents.

This is Mobil's seventh increase so far this year, including the 10-cent increase in its diesel price last week.

Shell Marianas Inc. has yet to raise its gas prices but it is expected to do so anytime soon. The two companies usually mirror each other's price hikes.

As usual, Mobil did not publicly announce yesterday's increase. It also did not explain the need to adjust its prices.

Under the new prices, Mobil's self-service regular gas on Saipan now costs \$4.449 a gallon, while its super unleaded is now \$4.599 a gallon.

See GAS on Page 4

The new prices of gasoline are seen on the sign board of a Mobil Oil gas station in Garapan yesterday.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



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Local

APIL backs \$30M 'bridge to sustainability'

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

A regional lawmakers group has adopted a resolution backing the CNMI and American Samoa's request for a combined \$30-million financial aid from the U.S. Congress.

The Association of Pacific Island Legislatures approved the resolution during a meeting in Guam last week. The document called on Congress to ei-

ther reconsider minimum wage increases, or approve an emergency supplemental appropriation of \$15 million each for the Northern Marianas and American Samoa.

"The funds will provide necessary support for the local economies during this period of economic crisis in each jurisdiction, and will create the base of information that will assist the Congress committees' interest in helping these jurisdictions at-

tain a greater degree of economic sustainability," the APIL said.

The CNMI and American Samoa have asked for the federal aid as a backup plan in the likely event that Congress fails to heed both governments' plea for the suspension of future minimum wage increases.

The so-called "bridge-to-sustainability funds" is seen to cushion the impact of the wage increases on the ailing economies of American Samoa and

the Northern Marianas. The two governments plan to use the money to maintain public services, provide incentives to American Samoa's tuna industry and the CNMI's tourism industry, install fuel storage facilities, offer emergency financial relief to affected employers, supplement local Medicare caps, increase economic data collection, and conduct wage increase impact studies.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial praised

APIL for the resolution. "I commend and applaud the expression of support from APIL in recognizing the economic vulnerability of American Samoa and the CNMI," said Fitial.

"On behalf of the people of the CNMI, I am grateful to our Pacific Island legislators for calling on federal policy makers to provide much needed financial relief for our struggling islands. I am very pleased that Pacific Island leaders have embraced the

cause of the CNMI and American Samoa," he added.

CNMI Vice Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero and Vaito'a Hans A. Langkilde, a member of American Samoa's Legislature, pushed for the adoption of the APIL resolution.

Lynn Knight, chairwoman of the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, also welcomed APIL's move. "I am happy to see this happen under the leadership of our vice speaker and Representative Langkilde. Efforts are still underway for us to get this bridge to sustainability funding," said Knight, who traveled to Washington last month to discuss the federal aid with congressional

See APIL on Page 4

SaipanCell gives \$5K to NMC Foundation



MARK RABAGO

SaipanCell Communications operations manager Paulina A. Johnson, third from right, hands over the company's \$5,000 educational tax credit donation to Northern Marianas College president Carmen Fernandez during a turnover ceremony last week at SaipanCell's Gualo Rai office.

SaipanCell Communications last week donated \$5,000 of its educational tax credit to the NMC Foundation in a simple ceremony at the company's head office in Gualo Rai.

The amount was the maximum allowed by law that companies could donate to their chosen entity, according to SaipanCell operations manager Paulina A. Johnson.

She said it was the third straight year the company has appropriated the maximum amount under the educational tax certificate program to the college.

"We want to help NMC. The last thing everybody wants is for the college to close down. The islands need a school for our children to go to college to and get a higher education," said Johnson.

Present to accept the generous gift were Northern Marianas College officials led by its president Carmen Fernandez. NMC

Foundation chair Ben Babauta was also in attendance as well as director Ivan Quichocho and the body's executive director Mark Mendiola.

Fernandez said the \$5,000 that SaipanCell donated will go a long way in helping the 6th Annual NMC Foundation Golf Tournament meet its goal of fundraising \$90,000 for the islands' lone tertiary institution.

Babauta thanked SaipanCell for donating its educational tax credit to the foundation. He said it goes to show that the company is really concerned about the future of NMC.

Joining Johnson in the turnover was SaipanCell business sales senior manager Joe Guerrero, sales representative Michael Mendoza, and other staff.

The 6th Annual NMC Foundation Open was held April 26 at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort. (Mark Rabago)

Yumul revives mass transit proposal

A lawmaker has revived a proposal to establish mass public transportation in the Commonwealth.

Rep. Ray N. Yumul yesterday pre-filed a bill creating a CNMI Office of Transit Authority within the Governor's Office.

He said that the rising price of fuel and the proliferation of illegal taxis underscore the need for a public transit system. He added that the Northern Marianas could avail of federal grants for enhancing its transportation system.

"The skyrocketing...price of gasoline is now taking a toll on the average wage earner who have to shoulder the ever increasing cost of utility and fuel for vehicles. Also, in a recently conducted sting operation from the Department of Public Safety April 22nd 2008, the department has arrested 9 in an illegal taxi operation. This illegal taxi activity only reinforces the CNMI's dire need for cheap and wide-reaching public transportation," said Yumul, whose other proposal—the gas tax holiday—is pending in legislative committee.

Yumul said the CNMI Public School System for the past years had been receiving grants from the Federal Transit Administration to buy school buses. He said PSS' bus fleet was to be complete by 2007, so the CNMI should now be able to seek FTA grants without stepping on PSS' toes.

But in order to apply for the grants, the CNMI must establish an agency that would be charged with establishing and overseeing a transportation system for the commonwealth.

Legislation creating a mass transit system in the CNMI has been proposed or passed by lawmaker several times. But it has never been signed into law. (Agnes E. Donato)

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Yana, Atalig slapped with \$6,900 fine, costs

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Attorneys Reynaldo O. Yana and Antonio M. Atalig, who were thrown in jail by Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo for civil contempt, face another hurdle.

Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja is sanctioning the two embattled lawyers to jointly pay a total of \$5,900 fine plus \$1,000 in judicial costs for their improper conduct in connection with the Angel Malite estate's probate.

In his order issued Friday, Naraja said it became even more clear at the show-cause hearings that bringing the motions to disqualify him and Govendo in the Malite case was not a calculated exercise of attorney discretion to advance legitimate interests of their client.

Naraja said the motions were a reckless and baseless attempt to disqualify him and Govendo in the two lawyers' personal interest.

"Beyond Mr. Yana and Atalig's blatant disregard for elementary procedures and their unsubstantiated legal assertions, they have engaged in personal unjustified attacks upon the integrity of the judges individually and the judiciary in its entirety," according to the presiding judge.

Worst of all, Naraja noted, the two lawyers have set aside their fiduciary duties to the Malite estate

and embarked on what appears to be a desperate personal crusade to avoid or delay impartial review of the legal fees awarded them in the probate—as ordered by the Supreme Court.

Court records show that in October 2007, then Malite estate administrator Jesus C. Tudela, through counsel Yana and Atalig, filed a motion to disqualify and or to recuse Govendo from presiding over the Malite probate.

Naraja assigned the motion to his court. But in September 2007, Tudela, through the two lawyers, also moved to disqualify Naraja from hearing the motion.

Atalig and Yana alleged that Govendo is biased against local customs and traditions, and

EMO warns of strong waves today

The Emergency Management Office is warning the public to stay out of the waters along west facing reefs until this evening due to high waves created by distant supertyphoon Rammasun that had just passed through the region.

In a high surf advisory it issued yesterday, EMO said the warning is in effect until 6pm Tuesday along west facing reefs.

Based on information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam and compiled at EMO, moderate east to southeast trade winds will persist through the forecast period. Combined seas were expected to peak yesterday and last night

is prejudiced against Filipinos, Koreans, and Chinese.

With respect to Naraja, Atalig and Yana said the presiding judge should recuse himself from the Malite case because he has no guts to disqualify Govendo.

In the order he issued on Sept. 19, 2007, Naraja denied both motions and ordered the two lawyers to explain why they should not be sanctioned for their conduct.

Naraja said the lawyers' conducts include failure to include requisite party affidavit when filing the motion and failure to include a certification that the motion was brought in good faith.

The presiding judge also cited the lawyers' other conducts such

near small craft advisory heights as the largest swells created by Rammasun pass through.

EMO is strongly advising the public—especially beachgoers, fishermen, tour operators, and divers—to avoid venturing near reefs lines and exposed beaches as wind and waves support dangerous rip currents.

Today until tonight, east winds are forecasted at 10 to 15 kt., wind waves at 3 to 4 ft., east swell at 5 ft and west swell at 5 to 6 ft.

Tomorrow, east winds are predicted at 10 to 15 kt., with wind waves of 3 to 5 ft., mixed swell east 5 ft and northeast 3 to 4 ft. (EMO)

as making the motion in an untimely manner and filing it for the purpose of causing unnecessary delay.

In his order issued Friday regarding the sanction issue, Naraja said that Yana and Atalig have embarked on a campaign of conduct which consistently violated the mandates of the Commonwealth Rules of Civil Procedure.

Tourist rescued from near-drowning

A lifeguard and another hotel staff rescued a 70-year-old woman from drowning at the Pacific Islands Club's swimming pool in San Antonio Thursday morning.

Responding medics brought Gyu Ok Lee, a Korean tourist, to the Commonwealth Health Center where she was treated for fluids in the lungs. She was later released.

Naraja said many of the violations with respect to the Govendo motion were repeated in the Naraja motion even after their shortcomings were pointed out by opposing counsel.

"Counsels' absence of preparation, research, and background knowledge of the relatively simple rules governing the disqualification and recusal process was unacceptable," the judge said.

He pointed out that the bulk of the work done by opposing coun-

sel and the court on the Govendo and Naraja motions could have been easily avoided had Yana and Atalig exerted even a minimal amount of time researching the law in the Commonwealth and familiarizing themselves with the proper process.

"As was clear in the motions themselves (and became crystal clear at the show cause proceedings) Mr. Yana and Mr. Atalig made no such attempt," Naraja said.

scene and assisted Choi in pulling Lee out of the pool.

Roligat, with the assistance of PIC sports director Cole Pritchard, administered cardiopulmonary resuscitation on the tourist.

When Lee finally regained consciousness, she was placed in a recovery position until medics arrived and brought her to CHC. (Ferdie de la Torre)



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



INVITATION FOR BIDS

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION

CUC-IFB08-003

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, is soliciting sealed bids for the **REHABILITATION OF THE EXISTING SLOW SAND FILTERS PROJECT** in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Sealed bids shall be identified on outside of the envelope by Invitation for Bids No. CUC-IFB008-003. Bids in six sets (including original) will be accepted at the Procurement and Supply Office, CUC, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan until 2:00 P.M., on, May 23, 2008, at which time and place will be publicly opened and read aloud.

A bid guarantee of 15 percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury.

The bidder is required to submit with his proposal a copy of his CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded through a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). Award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval from the USEPA.

The Contractor will be required to submit payment and performance bonds from a U.S. Treasury listed company. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage. The contractor will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws including the Davis Bacon Act.

The project consists, in general, of the rehabilitation of the existing slow sand filters, related plumbing, installation of qualitative measurement devices such as Turbidity Meters, Residual Chlorine Meter, related small pumps, electrical controls, and a new control room to house the metering devices adjacent to the Saipan International Airport, Saipan CNMI.

A non-refundable payment of \$300.00 is required for each set of Plans, Specifications, and Proposal Forms, available on or after April 25, 2008 at the Water Division Office, CUC, Saipan. A pre-bid conference for this project is scheduled at 10:00 A.M., on May 9, 2008, at the CUC Conference Room, Saipan. A project site visit is scheduled following the pre-bid meeting.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the interest of the government.

All inquiries should be directed to **Manuel B. Sablan, Procurement & Supply Manager** at telephone number (670) 235-7025 thru 7032 Ext. 111/134 or Larry Manacop Water Division Engineer at extension 155.

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CEC issues timeline for delegate wannabes

The Commonwealth Election Commission has issued a timeline for individuals wishing to be the first Northern Marianas delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives.

The landmark election will take place on Nov. 4, 2008, coinciding with the general election in the United States.

CEC executive director Gregorio Sablan said the commission would accept nominating petitions and candidacy documents from July 7 to Aug. 6.

The ongoing voter registration will continue until Sept. 15, 2008.

Voters who will be off island on election day may request absentee ballots

from Sept. 5 to Oct. 25. But the last day for requests for emergency absentee voting is Nov. 3, 2008.

The absentee ballots will be counted and tabulated on Nov. 18, exactly two weeks after the day of the election.

The new CNMI delegate will assume office on Jan. 12, 2009.

All CNMI registered voters may participate in the delegate election.

Some of the individuals reportedly interested in running for delegate are Resident Rep. Pete A. Tenorio, Finance Secretary Eloy Inos, former Attorney General and currently private attorney Robert Torres, Associate Judge Juan

Lizama, and the Election Commission's Sablan, who said that he has an exploratory committee "seriously considering" his candidacy.

President George W. Bush signed last week the act granting congressional representation to the Northern Marianas. The commonwealth is the last U.S. insular area to get a delegate in Congress.

Under the delegate act, Northern Marianas will have a representative with limited voting powers to the U.S. House of Representatives. Similar to House members and other delegates, the CNMI delegate will be elected to Congress every two years. He can

serve on committees, as well as vote on legislation at the committee level. But

floor voting will not be permitted. (*Agnes E. Donato*)

APIL

From Page 2

appropriations committees.

Fitial and Eni Faleomavaega, American Samoa's delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives, have written Congress asking for a suspended minimum wage hike or an economic assistance package to help mitigate the adverse economic impacts of forced federal wage hikes during weak economic conditions on the islands.

"Simply put, the fragile private sectors of American Samoa and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands cannot support additional costs when we are already in eco-

nomie decline," said Fitial and Faleomavaega, in a letter to Senators Ted Kennedy, Daniel Inouye, Jeff Bingaman, and Daniel Akaka.

Absent a federal wage suspension, Fitial called for the U.S. Congress to provide a minimum safety net to offset the impact of diminished revenues and economic activities that would likely result from higher wage costs. The Fitial and Faleomavaega proposal called for \$30 million in federal financial support for the two jurisdictions to be included in an emergency supplemental appropriation bill now being drafted in both houses of Congress. These funds would be used for "investments in critical areas that have the potential to bring multiplying economic benefits" to the islands.

GAS

From Page 1

For full service, Mobil's regular gas is now \$4.579 a gallon, while its super is now \$4.719 a gallon.

Diesel is now \$5.119 a gallon as last week Mobil and Shell Marianas Inc. raised the fuel's price by 10 cents without announcing it to the public.

After news spread of Mobil's increase yesterday afternoon, many motorists were seen avoiding Mobil and lining up at some Shell gas stations on Saipan.

If you think these prices are steep,

you should check out Rota. *Saipan Tribune* learned that, as of 2pm yesterday, the price for a gallon of regular gas on Rota was \$5, while diesel was at \$5.65. Today, Tuesday, diesel on the island will cost \$5.75 a gallon.

On Tinian, regular gas is now \$4.940 a gallon and diesel \$5.409 per gallon.

On April 21, Mobil increased its prices for regular and super by 12 cents a gallon. It also increased its price of diesel by 14 cents a gallon.

Last April 10, Shell increased its gasoline products by six cents a gallon, and 10 cents a gallon for diesel. After a day or two, Mobil also increased its gas prices.

POLICE WEEK

Dandan Elementary School students check out the K9 police dogs during the Police Week open house outside the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe Thursday. Department of Public Safety and other law enforcement agencies showcased and educated members of the community and students about what it is that each agency does and how law enforcement can be a career opportunity for them. The event was part of the Police Week 2008 celebration, organized by DPS and Police.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



FITIAL

From Page 1

CPA is nearing technical default on the 1998 indenture on its airport revenue bonds. Under the indenture agreement, if CPA committed such default, the bank could issue a notice of default and take over.

CPA now joins the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. as autonomous agencies that are currently under the direct control of the Office of the Governor.

Concurrent with the executive order, Fitial will issue several directives that will raise CPA rates, impose austerity measures, and end the incentive program for airlines flying to the Northern Marianas.

Fitial has instructed acting executive director Lee Cabrera to administer CPA during the extendable 120-day period that the ports authority will be under the Governor's Office, specifically the Department of Public Works. Cabrera has been told to consult with the Executive Branch, the Office of the Attorney General, and CPA acting comptroller Frances C. Mafnas.

During the 120-day period, Cabrera will be tasked to file interim bond indenture compliance and fiscal reports at 15, 30, 60, and 90 days from May 12, 2008 to the administration, to the Legislature, and to Bank of Guam. These interim reports will detail CPA's administrative status, fiscal integrity, and compliance with its enabling act directing that CPA generate revenues for its operations and for the bond indenture.

On March 1, 1998, CPA entered into a \$20 million airport revenue bond indenture agreement with Bank of Guam as the bond trustee. This agreement requires CPA to make timely payments and to maintain a 1.25 revenue-to-bond payment ratio at all times during the duration of the bond. In other words, for every \$1 owed on the bond, CPA must have \$1.25 of net revenue in reserve.

CPA, which still owes \$17 million, has been making punctual payments. But it has failed to meet the required debt ratio of 1.25. Currently, the ports authority reportedly has 70 cents of reserve revenue to match every dollar it owes.

In a recent report, CPA's acting comptroller said that first quarter losses from the airline incentive program



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Tourists stream into the check-in area of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport in this file photo.

have totaled \$1.2 million. If the Airline Incentive Program is continued and rate increases are not increased, CPA's projected total deficit will be at least \$3.4 million. By eliminating the airline incentive program alone, the acting comptroller projects a \$1.97-million reduction in losses.

Cabrera said the new rates are now

being drafted and should be on the governor's desk for his signature soon. The departure service charge is one of those expected to increase—from \$8 to \$9.07. Airlines normally pass this charge on to passengers.

Press secretary Charles P. Reyes Jr. said the administration is ready to work with airlines that have been promised

incentives for flying new routes and adding air service to Saipan.

In recent meetings with the Legislature, the administration, the airlines, and with the CPA board, Bank of Guam has underlined the importance of generating revenue and implementing management controls to be able to maintain the debt service ratio as required by the Bond Indenture Agreement, given decreasing revenues.

"The Administration's concern for CPA's financial stability prompted Governor Fitial to take all deliberate measures in the best interest of CPA and its Bond Indenture Agreement, including the execution of Executive Order 08-03, in order to maintain CPA's stability and integrity as an autonomous agency," the press statement said.

Reyes said the governor's action is temporary. CPA will regain its autonomy once its finances are stable.

The Legislature has 60 days to contest the governor's order if it wishes to do so.

The CPA board of directors is made up of chairman Rex Palacios, Antonio Camacho, Marian Tudela, Connie Igisomar, Alejo Mendiola, Ray Cing, and Joe Lifofoi.

VISITOR

From Page 1

crease, for a change.

For the first time this fiscal year, arrivals from Japan were higher than the previous period, growing by 9 percent to 15,743 from 14,445 in April 2007.

A contributing factor in the growth, according to MVA, is the resumption of the direct flights from Osaka. In April 2007, there were 16,578 seats out of

Japan but with the resumption of the Northwest Airlines daytime flights, the CNMI enjoyed 19,860 seats this year.

"We are very encouraged by the strong growth out of Japan this month," said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio. "With the recent announcement of the additional nighttime flights coming out of Narita on Northwest Airlines, we look forward to continued growth from Japan."

Visitor arrivals from South Korea continued to be robust in April 2008 with

yet another double-digit increase at 41 percent. A total of 8,743 Korean visitors entered the Commonwealth last month compared to 6,196 in April 2007.

The sustained strength of the CNMI's fastest-growing market can be attributed to ongoing promotions in South Korea as well as more frequent flights serviced by Asiana Airlines.

The Russian market also continued to show monthly growth for all of fiscal year 2008 as April numbers recorded 403 Russian guests visiting the CNMI,

compared to 283 in April 2007. This is an increase of 42 percent.

"Other countries" and the U.S., meanwhile, were the top market performers based on percentage increase. MVA said both markets registered astounding triple-digit growths of 624 percent and 127 percent respectively (1,572 for "Other countries" and 1,969 for Russia).

MVA said ship arrivals are a strong factor in this growth. For the month of April 2008, the CNMI welcomed five

military ships that brought in a total of 921 crew and one cruise ship that brought in 1,708 passengers.

"If these ship arrivals were factored out of the monthly count, visitor arrivals would have posted an overall 11 percent growth compared to April 2007," the MVA said.

Source markets that didn't perform that well last month include China (down 20 percent), the Philippines (69 percent), Taiwan (95 percent), and Guam (1 percent).



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

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Telephone no. (670) 236-0956/0957 Facsimile no. (670) 236-0995



PUBLIC NOTICE OF EMERGENCY REGULATIONS AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT AMENDMENTS TO THE EMPLOYMENT RULES AND REGULATIONS

EMERGENCY ADOPTION AND IMMEDIATE EFFECT: The Department of Labor finds that:

- (1) under 1 CMC § 9104(b), the public interest requires prompt issuance of regulations to implement the requirement of S. 2739, Title VII, Section 103(i), P.L. 110-____, that is effective on the effective date of this federal legislation under which the number of "alien workers present in the Commonwealth" may not be increased over the next 12 months; and
- (2) the same rules and regulations will be adopted as permanent regulations pursuant to the attached Notice of Proposed Rules and Regulations and the Administrative Procedure Act, 1 CMC § 9104(a).

* * *

REGULATIONS

AMENDMENTS TO the Alien Rules and Regulations (effective February 1, 2008)

Part III. Moratorium on the Hiring of Foreign National Workers,

Section E: FEDERAL MORATORIUM

1. Federal requirement. The federal legislation (S. 2739, Section 103(i), P.L. 110-____) requires: "During the period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act and ending on the transition program effective date ... the Government of the Commonwealth shall not permit an increase in the total number of alien workers who are present in the Commonwealth as of the date of the enactment of this Act."
2. Numerical cap. The number of "alien workers who are present in the Commonwealth" is 22,417. The Commonwealth established this benchmark when the House and Senate passed the legislation (as closely approximating and fairly representing the actual number on the precise date) so as to be able to implement the federal requirement immediately, as is the intent of the law.
 - a) The term "alien workers" for this purpose includes persons admitted to the Commonwealth in immigration classifications 706A, 706B, 706D, 706F, 706I, 706J, 706K, 706L, 706M, 706N, and 706P. Persons in each of these categories are "aliens" and they are all admitted to the Commonwealth under conditions that permit work while in the Commonwealth. Persons who entered or enter the Commonwealth as tourists, students, immediate relatives of aliens (who are not permitted to work), for investment purposes, or under treaty provisions are not included in the term "alien workers." Classification of any alien present in the Commonwealth is determined by the last approved permit application, and aliens admitted under immigration classification 706E who were previously admitted under a classification that permitted work will be deemed "alien workers" for these purposes and permitted to work.
 - b) The term "present in the Commonwealth" includes "alien workers" who have an Authorization for Entry on the effective date and "alien workers" who are temporarily absent from the Commonwealth on the effective date due to medical referral, home leave, family leave, vacation, work assignment, or other temporary absence. These persons have an established employment or residence in the Commonwealth, consistent with the purpose of the federal legislation, and had no reasonable notice with respect to the effective date.
3. Transparency. The Department of Labor will publish each month on its website, on the day after the last business day of the month, the names of the "alien workers" who have departed the Commonwealth on a permanent basis within that month and will publish at the same time the names of the "alien workers" who have entered the Commonwealth within that month. An "alien worker" will be presumed to have departed on a permanent basis unless notice of temporary exit has been received by the Department prior to departure pursuant to Section 4951 of P.L. 15-108 or some equivalent notice is provided to the Division of Immigration prior to or at departure. The Department will not allow entry of "alien workers" in a number that exceeds the number who have departed.
4. Fairness: After the effective date of the federal legislation, "alien workers" will be admitted to the Commonwealth for slots vacated by "alien workers" who have departed the Commonwealth on a permanent basis (after the effective date of the federal legislation) under the following priorities:
 - a) Replacements: An employer who repatriates a foreign national worker (that is, arranges, completes, and pays for a worker's voluntary departure from the Commonwealth) after the effective date of these regulations may utilize the slot created by this departure so long as the completed application for the worker for whom the slot will be utilized is filed with the Department within 90 days of the departure of the repatriated foreign national worker. An employer who repatriated a foreign national worker within six months before the effective date of these regulations may replace that worker under the same conditions, subject to the availability of a slot under these regulations.
 - b) Point system: For slots available and not filled by replacements, priority will be established by a point system. Applicants may submit a point total with each application as follows:
 - (i) For employment of U.S. citizen and permanent resident workers, one point for each percentage of total employment and, in addition, one point for each percentage of total employment above 20%;

- (ii) For years of operation as an established business in the Commonwealth, one point for each year;
- (iii) For major developments as defined in Section 4602(e) of P.L. 15-108 and Part III(B)(5) of these regulations, one hundred points;
- (iv) For classification as a part of the visitor industry, twenty points; and for classification as part of the visitor support industry, ten points; and
- (v) For providing the Department of Labor with a reasonably accurate forecast (updated as necessary) of need for new-entrant foreign workers three months in advance of the proposed arrival, ten points.

The Director of Labor will allocate available slots to the applications on hand having the most points, provided however that the Director may reserve slots for an anticipated major development as necessary. Applications may remain in the process for as long as a need for the foreign national worker continues to exist.

- c) Lottery: The Director of Labor may hold approximately 10% of the available slots for a lottery each month whose participants will be small businesses with fewer than five employees and who have at least one citizen or permanent resident worker in the workforce. Small businesses may also submit applications under the point system above.

5. Sanctions: The Director of Labor is instructed to monitor compliance with the cap carefully and conservatively at all times because, under the federal moratorium, the sanctions for non-compliance fall only on the foreign worker. The federal law provides: "[A]n alien [is subject to removal] at any time if the alien entered the Commonwealth after the date of the enactment of the ... Act and the Secretary of Homeland Security has determined that the Government of the Commonwealth has violated [the cap]."
6. Other regulations: All provisions of P.L. 15-108 and the Commonwealth's Employment Rules and Regulations remain in full force and effect and shall be implemented in a manner consistent with these regulations.

DIRECTIONS FOR FILING AND PUBLICATION: These Proposed Regulations shall be published in the Commonwealth Register in the sections on emergency and proposed regulations (see 1 CMC § 9102(a)(1)) and posted in convenient places in the civic center and in local government offices in each senatorial district. (1 CMC § 9104(a)(1))

The Secretary of Labor shall take appropriate measures to make these Regulations known to the persons who may be affected by them (1 CMC 9105(b)(2)).

IMMEDIATE EFFECT: These emergency regulations become effective immediately upon filing with the Commonwealth Register and delivery to the Governor. (1 CMC § 9105(b)(2))

FOR ADDITIONAL FORMATION OR TO PROVIDE COMMENTS: Please contact Eleanor Nisperos, Assistant Attorney General, Counsel for Department of Labor, Afetña Square Building, San Antonio, Caller 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, phone (670) 236-0910, fax (670) 236-0990, e-mail address: enisperos@cnmi-gov.net.

Submitted by: _____ /s/ _____ 05/09/08
GIL M. SAN NICOLAS Date
Secretary of Labor

Concurred by: _____ /s/ _____ 05/09/08
BENIGNO R. FITIAL Date
Governor

Filed and
Recorded by: _____ BERNADITA B. DE LA CRUZ _____ Date
Commonwealth Registrar

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 2153(e), as amended by Public Law 10-50, the emergency rules and regulations attached hereto have been reviewed and approved as to form and legal sufficiency by the CNMI Office of the Attorney General.

Dated the 9th day of May, 2008.

_____/s/ _____
MATTHEW T. GREGORY,
Attorney General

Govt, NMC sued for alleged taking of Rota land

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_deltorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

An estate has sued the CNMI government for allegedly taking without due compensation a portion of its land that is now encroached by the Northern Marianas College on Rota.

The estate of Cresencio Pangelinan Manglona, through its administratrix Carmen Iglesias Lizama, sued the Department of Public Lands, NMC, NMI government, and 10 unnamed co-defendants.

Decedent Manglona was Lizama's grandfather. The Manglona estate is currently being probated in the Superior Court.

In the complaint, Lizama, through counsel Timothy H. Bellas, asked the Superior Court to declare that the Manglona estate is the rightful holder of title to all of the affected property.

She asked the court to rule

that the government and the unnamed defendants be declared as having no estate, right, title or interest in the property.

Lizama also asked the court to issue a ruling that any maps or other documents previously recorded showing title that is adverse to that of Manglona be declared null and void.

She demanded damages for the loss of use of the property for all the years since the alleged unlawful taking occurred.

If, at the conclusion of the case, she is unable to have the property taken restored to the estate, Lizama said she should be awarded a land of equivalent value or monetary compensation for the real property taken by the CNMI at the time of taking.

She also asked for judgment forever stopping all defendants from claiming any estate, right, title or interest in the subject property. She demanded pay-

ment for attorney's fees and court costs and other damages.

Bellas stated in the complaint that members of the Manglona family have on several occasions made claims to the two parcels of property which are the subject of the suit.

The lots are commonly known as T.D. 513 and T.D. 355 containing a total of 3.75 hectares.

Bellas said in spite of the fact that family representatives, such as Maria Guerrero, have made claims to these properties since 1958, the properties were not surveyed until relatively recently.

Bellas said that on May 28, 1998, two Rota Land Title Investigators, Maria S. Mesngon and Higinio Q. Quitugua, prepared and signed a report in

which they indicated that the land described as TDs 355 and 513 has been altered.

The report states that a portion of the land of TDs 355 and 513 is now encroached by the NMC campus and the college library.

Not only have the locations of two lots been altered by the remapping but the area of the lots has now shrunk, under the new maps prepared by the CNMI, to approximately 50 percent of the previous area, Bellas said.

The lawyer said that some unnamed defendants or the CNMI have caused maps to be drawn, purposely altering the location of TDs 355 and 513 to avoid compensating the estate for its encroachment and or taking of the land originally contained in

the two lots.

Bellas said the government and unnamed defendants have commissioned these maps and recorded them without getting the concurrence of adjoining landowners or Manglona's surviving heirs.

"Despite having the information which would cause them to conduct further investigation into the true location of TDs 355 and 513, the CNMI and or some Doe defendants have persisted in creating new lots and purported to convey title to these new lots to persons who are

presently unknown to plaintiff," the lawyer said.

Bellas asserted that the defendants have deprived Manglona of his entitlement to his property without according him any just compensation for the use of the property since it was converted for the use of the government.

He said there was and is ample and suitable other public land located on Rota for purposes of constructing the Rota campus of the college.

"The taking of the land belonging to plaintiff's decedent was, therefore, not essential to the CNMI's accomplishment of its public purpose," Bellas added.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Oleai Elementary School PTSA meeting tonight

The PTSA Officers of Oleai Elementary School would like to inform the parents and guardians of Oleai Elementary School that there will be a PTSA meeting today, May 13, 2008, 6pm in the school cafeteria. Everyone is encouraged to attend. **(PR)**

SSHS PTSA meeting tomorrow

To all parents/legal guardian of Saipan Southern High School: There will be a PTA meeting tomorrow, Wednesday May 14, 2008 at 6pm in the cafeteria. **(PR)**

TES registration schedule

Tanapag Elementary School will start registering returning students, new students and kindergarten students until May 30, 2008 from 8am to 4pm at the main office.

Registration Requirements:

1. Registration Form
2. Child must be 5 years old by August 31, 2008. (For Kindergarten)
3. Withdrawal/Transfer Form from previous school (For transferring students)
4. Birth Certificate
5. School Entrance Health Certificate
6. Copy of updated Health Insurance/Updated Medicaid
7. Map to Residence/Home
8. Copy of Power of Attorney or Guardianship (If applicable)

Please call the school at 664-3425/6 or 237-3161/4 for any question. **(PR)**

WSR's May/June 2008 events

- May 12-16 Registration for WSR ongoing 1st grade students
- May 12-16 Standards based assessment week 3rd/4th/5th/6th grade
- May 13 NJHS meeting 2:30 pm, room g-2
- May 14 April/May peace builders diners club, 1pm cafeteria
- May 14 Pizza night fundraising
- May 16 Book fair, 8am-2pm
- May 19-21 RFA/BRI testing (half day)
- May 23 3rd grade campout
- May 26 Memorial Day holiday (no classes)
- May 28 6th grade promotional ceremony, 10am, multi purpose center
- June 2 4th quarter award ceremony
- June 3 Last day of school/report card day
- June 9-30 Open Registration

Due to the safety concerns that we have with students wearing "heelies" at school, WSR Elementary School will not allow the use of heelies on campus. Students may wear the shoe, but without the wheels attached. Thank you for your cooperation. **(PR)**

GES starts Kindergarten registration

The Garapan Elementary School would like to announce the opening of registration for Kindergarten students.

Registration will take place in the main office beginning May 12, 2008, between the hours of 7:30am - 9am and 1pm - 2:20pm. Kindergarten students must be 5 years of age on or before the end of Aug. 31, 2008. Be sure to bring copies of all documents. GES charges a 25-cent fee per copy requested.

Required documents:

- Completed registration form
- Copy of Birth Certificate or Passport
- School Entrance Health Certificate
- Copy of Health Insurance (government, private, Medicaid or student accident insurance accepted)
- Map to residence

GES zoning areas include parts of Puerto Rico, upper/lower Navy Hill, Garapan, Chinatown, Northern Gualo Rai and Northern Beach Road (from the Gualo Rai traffic light to Marianas Eye Institute north). **(PR)**

RC&D votes in favor of marine monument

By **RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN**
rienne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Resource Conservation & Development Council executive board has voted in favor to support the establishment of the Marianas Trench Marine Monument in the far northern islands of Asuncion, Maug, and Farallon De Pajaros.

RC&D vice president Ignacio V. Cabrera in a letter to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial cited "excellent reasons" why such a project would be beneficial to the CNMI such as how the CNMI would benefit from millions of dollars in federal funds, the creation of over 30 jobs, the building of a visitor's center, global recognition etc.

According to Cabrera, the new paradigm in ocean conservation is being led by Ocean Legacy, a program of the Pew Environment Group, "whose goal is to create large ecosystem-sized marine reserves to protect the continuous degradation of our marine ecosys-

tem, and preserve for the future, for ourselves, and our children, a global marine heritage."

Cabrera suggest that the establishment of the marine monument would be an "integral part of the worldwide effort by Ocean Legacy to protect our marine environment so that we have fish to catch and eat for generations to come."

He added that it will also help the CNMI "meet and possibly exceed our commitment to the Micronesia Challenge."

Cabrera is a local fisherman and a former director of the Division of Environmental Quality where he served for over 20 years until his retirement.

Cabrera said the purpose of the RC&D is to develop partnerships with government, non-government and private organizations such as the Beautify CNMI Coalition.

"These alliances provide necessary tools and resources that allow us to accomplish our goals and objectives," Cabrera said.



LIBERATION DAY PREPS

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Construction staff works on building vendor booths yesterday at the Garapan Fishing Base in preparation for the CNMI's largest community event, the upcoming Liberation Day Festival, which will be celebrated in June.



RECITAL

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Promising young students of the RC Sablan School of Music perform a special song number for mothers in observance of Mother's Day during the school's musical recital at the American Memorial Park Visitors Center Theater Sunday night.

‘Immortals’ to take on NMI lawmakers

By **RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN**
rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The *man’amko* “Immortals” are ready to take on government officials in a game of softball at the Palacios Baseball Field in Susupe as part of the ongoing celebration of May as *Mes Man’Amko* or Older Americans Month.

Sporting crisp new uniforms funded by Wells Fargo Financial, the *Man’Amko* Immortals are pumped up ready for a big win tomorrow, according to its head coach, Francisco Reyes.

“We will give it all our best and we will triumph, win or lose,” Reyes said.

Howard Macaranas, director of the Office of Aging, presented Wells Fargo Financial an appreciation plaque for “their generous support and assistance to the islands’ elderly.”

Wells Fargo Financial donat-

ed a sum of \$776 to the Office of Aging to help fund the new baseball uniforms.

Macaranas said the *man’amko* have been seeking assistance from the community to prep for their big game this year. “Luckily, Wells Fargo came to the rescue. The *man’amko* cannot thank them enough.”

The Immortals roster includes Natsko Nicholas, Pedro Dela Cruz, James Jordan, Siyau Muna, Rosario Ibanez, Mahensia Mereb, Roberto Dela Cruz, Marianao Satur, Rosalia Sablan, and Christiana Michael.

The team’s back ups include Susana Santos, Sitae Terry, Terry Siroza, Ana Nakatsukasa, Felipe Santiago, Romino Achene, and Monique Mariur.

Senators who have confirmed their participation in tomorrow’s game are Sen. Felix T. Mendiola, Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider, Sen. Luis P. Crisostimo, Sen.

Joseph M. Mendiola, and Sen. Henry H. San Nicholas.

Representatives for the lower chamber include Reps. Joseph C. Reyes, Tina M. Sablan, Edward T. Salas, Ralph DLG. Torres, Ray N. Yumul, and Rosemond B. Santos.

Over 40 *man’amko* took over the Legislature on Capital Hill last Friday. According to Office of Aging’s event coordinator Walter Manglona, the event was “successful. They all had a great time learning new things about our government.”

The CNMI is home to over 2,000 citizens age 60 or older. An average of 90 to 100 senior citizens visit the Aging Center on a daily basis.

The Aging Center has lined up an array of activities for the whole month, including the coronation of the 2008 *Mes Man’Amko* King and Queen on May 30.

All in All: Stepping into Butters’ world

By **RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN**
RIANNE_PANGELINAN@SAIPANTRIBUNE.COM

All in All, the autobiography of Saipan resident Joseph “Jody” Butters, tells of life growing up in a small town in Massachusetts and his travels to a number of exotic places, including finding his soul mate and adopting several children with her.

Butters, now 72, said he wrote the book after reading one written by a friend.

“It came to my mind that my children, all being adopted, knew nothing of where I came from or about my childhood. As stated in the book, this is the main reason for my writing,” he said.

Butters grew up in a small town called Hull, where life was as innocent and picturesque as kittens in a basket. He wrote of the close ties among the residents and the abundance of friendship he shared with his closest buddies. If you’ve watched the 1993 film *The Sandlot*, then you’ll know exactly what it is that I’m talking about.

As he got older, Butters joined the U.S. Navy where he was named a Mustang. He said the military is not for everyone, but it provided a good life for him and his family.

“We traveled the world and met a lot of interesting people. By the grace of God or gods, whatever your bent is, I survived Vietnam both physically and mentally and was able to continue with a normal life,” Butters said.

One of the places he visited was Cavite City in the Philippines where he found his wife of more than 50 years. Together they adopted 11 children and had just adopted one more last week.

Years ago, one of his adopted children was killed in a car ac-

cident. He wrote a poem for her, which is also included in the book. He also shares with readers several poems he wrote.

Butters dedicated the book to a number of people in his life—from high school friends, to his mom and dad.

Butters has already sold more than 300 copies of his autobiography and is working on selling more. A copy can be obtained at www.bookstopquincy.com or email jbutters@pticom.com

He has also started another book about him and his wife going to the land of “Whisper-will.”

“I don’t suppose I will ever finish it, and if I do, I don’t know that it would ever be printed,” he sighed.

According to his blurb on the bookstopquincy website, Butters is also an accomplished photographer.

“*All in All* is written from the heart very much as he speaks. A retired 31-year Navy veteran, he has seen the world and all the human generated problems. He prays that one of the generations that comes along will finally get it right,” it says.

Selwyn M. Ogo and
Melani Rose B. Quitugua
P.O. Box 1319
Rota, MP 96951
Telephone No. 670-532-0007

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF
THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE MATTER
FOR GENERAL
GUARDIANSHIP OF:
CYAN-KEI QUITUGUA
OGO
Minor Child
by
CECILE MARIE OGO
GASPER and
RONALD
CHRISTOPHER
GASPER
Petitioners.

FC D GU
CIVIL
ACTION
NO.
08-237R
NOTICE
OF
HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition for Appointment of Guardianship for the above-named minor child by Cecile Marie Ogo Gasper and Ronald Christopher Gasper, Petitioners, was filed with the above-entitled Honorable Court.

A HEARING of said petition for Guardianship will held at the above-entitled Honorable Court at Rota Superior Court before the Honorable Juan T. Lizama on the 6th day of June, 2008 at 10:30 A.M. or as soon as thereafter.

Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court

/s/ By: Deputy Clerk of Court



PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP: RFP08-DCCA/HPO-046

SUBMISSION DATE: MAY 30, 2008 TIME: 2:00 P.M.

“TO CONDUCT AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF APPROXIMATELY
3.5 HECTARES ON KAGMAN PENINSULA, SAIPAN
FOR THE DCCA - HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE”

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWERBASE DURING REGULAR
WORKING HOURS.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER
PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND
MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/ MELVIN L.O. FAISAO /s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
ACTING SECRETARY OF DCCA DIRECTOR, P&S

Commonwealth I Sankattan Siha Na Islas Mariana Ofisinan I Gubietno Dipåttementon I Tano’ Pupbliku

NOTISIA POT PLANON MA-ATKILAN TANO PUBLIKO

Segun i tineteka na patte gi Lai Publiko 15-2, i Depattamenton Tano ha publilika planon para uma-atkila tano publiko guine giya Nottle Marianas. Todo membron publikon iya Marianas libre man-nahalom opinion pot este na plano ‘sino otro hinasso pot priniponen atkilon maseñala para uma-atkila na tano publiko.

I mapropone na atkilon ma-deskribe komo Lot No. 002 E 03 ‘nai guaha 4,619 metro kuatdrao; Lot No. 002 E 04, i dinañkuloña 4,622 metro kuatdrao; yan, Lot No. 012 E 03, dinañkuloña 3,060 metro kuatdrao, poko mas o’ menos. I mapan este na tano publiko gaige gi Depattamenton Tano.

I aplikante i kompanian Huang Zheng Corporation, Ltd., un` kompania guine giya Marianas. A presidenten este na kompania si Señor Quan Huang. Si Mr. Huang kontratistan este na atkilon ya inasiste as Señor Tony Reyes.

Si Mr. Huang para u usa i lugat para bisnis lulog, alumimum, yan papet katton, lugat para materiat siha (warehouse), manbenden materiat para mahatsan guma, bisnis produkton tase yan man-repean boti.

I tetminon atkilon para bente siñko (25) años ya siña marinueba para kinse (15) años mas na tiempo. I atkilon siempre uma-detetmina akuanto pot sientto kada sakan segun i maprepara na ripot balin este siha na tano. I mapropopone na kontratan atkilon siña in` rikonose gi maseha mano na offisinan Depattamenton Tano entalo Luta, Tinian yan Saipan. I Depattamenton Tano trabiha ti man-resisibe otro planon uson este siha na tano publiko.

I Sekretarion Depattamenton Tano listo para u resibe opiñion publiko pot uson este siha na tano antes de Mayu 14, 2008.

ARONGORONG REEL POMWOL AKKILONUL FALÚWEER TOULAP

Sángi Tálil ye 106 (b) mellól Alléghúl Toulap 15-2, Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap ekke atotoowow am-mataf igha ebwe akkilaaló eghús falúw mellól Seipel, Commonwealth Téél Falúwasch Marianas. Schóókka eyoor máfiyeer rebwe isisilong aghiyeghiir, aweewe, aingiingil reel pomwol akkilonul ammwelil falúweer toulap. Me bwal Alléghúl Toulap ye 15-2, e ayooora, lamal aweewe kka rebwe mweiti ngáli milikka ebwe akkatééló.

- i. Pomwol akkilonul falúweer toulap nge ekke bwaári Lot No. 002 E 03, eyoor faawu sangaras olabwughuw seigh me tiwoow llapal (4,619 square meters), elapeló me ngáre eghús, Lot No. 002 E 04, eyoor faawu sangaras olabwughuw reweigh me ruwoow llapal (4,622 square meters) elapelo me ngare eghus me Lot No. 012 E 03, eyoor eluuw sangaras oleigh llapal (3,060 square meters), elo Lower Base, Seipel. Tilighial bwuley yeel nge eyoor mereel Bwulasiyool Falúweer Toulap (Public Lands) ngare óubwe ghuley fischiy.
- ii. Schóól akkilon nge Huang Zheng Corporation., CNMI corporation LTD. Mr. Quang Huang nge ii schagh Samwoolul (President) corporation yeel.

Schéschéél samwoolul corporation yeel nge Quan Huang.
- iii. Schóól aweweel akkilon nge Mr. Quan Huang fengal me alillisil Mr. Tony A. Reyes.
- iv. Schóól akkilon ebwe ayooora bwuley reel recycling, sookko, wiisal tenda matiriyóód, retail/wholesale reel mwungol leaset, me ammwelil bwoot.

Tool aighúghúl pomwol akkilon nge reweigh me limoow ráágh (25 years), emmwel rebwe sóbweey ngáli bwal seigh me limoow ráágh (15 years).

Meel akkilon yeel nge ebwe mwir sángi llapal méél falúw (value of the property).

- v. Emmwel bwe tilighial akkilon óubwe bwughil mellol bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap, elo aruwowal pwó (2nd floor) me Joeten Dandan Commercial Building llol Dandan, Seipél; aruwowal pwó (2nd floor) mellól Bank of Saipan Commercial Building, Luuta; me ngáre mmwal pwó (1st floor) mellól Kings Commercial Building, Tchúlúyól.
- iv. Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge esáál bweibwogh mwo bwal eew pomwol akkilon ye elo Lower Base, Seipel..
- v. Samwoolul Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge ebwe bwughil ischil mángemáng, aingiingil mereel amweyút mmwal schagh Ghuuw (May) 14, 2008 mellól Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap iye elo Seipél, Luuta me ngare Tchúlúyól.

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE OF PUBLIC LAND

In accordance with Section 106 (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to lease certain public lands in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

- i. The proposed lease of public land is described as Lot No. 002 E 03, containing an area of approximately 4,619 square meters, more or less, Lot No. 002 E 04, containing an area of approximately 4,622 square meters, more or less, and Lot No. 012 E 03, containing an area of approximately 3,060 square meters, situated in Lower Base, Saipan. A copy of the location of the parcels is available at the Department of Public Lands for inspection.
- ii. The prospective lessee is Huang Zheng Corporation., Ltd., a CNMI corporation. Mr. Quan Huang is the sole director of the corporation.

The president of the corporation is Mr. Quan Huang.
- iii. The proposed lease was negotiated by Mr. Quan Huang with the assistance of Mr. Tony A. Reyes.
- iv. The lessee shall use the premises solely for the purpose of developing and operating facilities for recycling, a warehouse, retail of hardware materials, retail/wholesale of seafood products, and boat repair and maintenance.

The term of the proposed lease agreement is 25 years, with an option to extend the lease for an additional 15 years.

The proposed annual rental during the term is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the property.
- v. A copy of the proposed lease agreement may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; the 2nd floor of the Bank of Saipan Commercial Building, Rota; or the 1st floor of the Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.
- vi. The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public land in Lower Base, Saipan.
- vii. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before May 14, 2008 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

AT THE LEGISLATURE

The following legislative meetings will be held today, Tuesday, May 13:

1. House Committee on Health, Education, and Welfare at 9am;
2. Presentation and discussion on House Bill 16-77, the CUC Private Sector Partnership Act of 2008 at 10am in the House Chamber;
3. House Committee on Commerce and Tourism at 1:30pm in the Speaker's Conference Room

to review the following bills:

- HB 16-12: to boost the economy of the CNMI by establishing a specific nonimmigrant entry permit category in the Immigration Code to attract the "silver club" market in Japan and retirees from other Asian countries;
- HB 16-31: to amend the Weapons Control Act to promote and allow resort developments offering target ranges for competitive rifle competitions and skeet shooting;

■ HB 16-37: to repeal and re-enact Chapter 16 of Division 5 of Title 4 of the Commonwealth Code as established by Public Law 15-36 to regulate recycling businesses operating in the Commonwealth; to repeal Public Law 15;55 in its entirety; to establish the offense of theft of copper

■ HB 16-39: to repeal and re-enact Chapter 8, Division 5, Title 4 of the Commonwealth Code relating to mechanics' liens

■ HB 16-52: to permit a borrower of CDA to assign land

compensation due from the Commonwealth Government to pay for balance on CDA loan

■ HB 16-78: to amend Public Law 15-22, to permit contract physicians at the Department of Public Health, and short-term veterinary professionals at the Department of Lands and Natural Resources to be covered under the Commonwealth Employees' Liability Reform and Tort Compensation Act of 2006

Source: Rep. Tina Sablan



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Benito Clan reunion meeting tomorrow

This is to inform the children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren of Vicente Gogue Taitano and Juan Gogue Taitano "Benito Clan" that the date of the reunion has been pushed to July 11-12, 2008.

The next meeting for the "Benito Clan" will be tomorrow, May 14, at the residence of Jose M. and Merced T. Taitano in Tanapag, at 6pm.

Family members are urged to please attend this important meeting.

For more information you may contact Eleanor Aldan Cepeda at 483-6358 or Cecilia Taitano Celis at 285-0607. (PR)

Marriage Encounter reunion set

All Newly Encountered Couples and the entire Marriage Encounter community are invited to attend the reunion for the April 2008 Weekend.

The reunion is scheduled for Wednesday, May 14, 7pm, at the Joeten Daidai Social Hall (across from the Mt. Carmel Cathedral). Please bring a snack to share!

The Ecclesial Team also encourages all couples to attend the 6pm Mass held at Mt. Car-

mel Cathedral just before the reunion. (PR)

Live-fire training on Farallon this week

The Emergency Management Office, in conjunction with U.S. Naval Forces Marianas Guam, said that the U.S. military would be conducting live fire training on the island of Farallon de Mendenilla on May 12 - 19, 2008 from 7am to 1am.

EMO is advising the general public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—to stay away from this area during the time and dates indicated.

For more information, contact the EMO Operations Section at telephone numbers 322-9528 and 322-9529, VHF MARINE CHNL 16, and HF Single Side Band Radio on 5.205.0. (EMO)

GOP members' meeting Wednesday

A general membership meeting for registered members of the CNMI Republican Party will be conducted tomorrow, May 14, 2008, Wednesday, at the Garapan Central Park, with new membership registration at 5pm followed by the official opening of the 2008 GOP Membership

Meeting at 6pm.

Agenda for the meeting includes election of officers for 2008-2009 and adoption of Minutes for Sept. 1, 2007, and Feb. 23, 2008. (PR)

Beautify CNMI activities

The monthly Beautify CNMI meeting is this week at the Hawaii Grill (which is non-smoking) at 7pm Thursday. There will be an update on the Jake Shimabukuro concert, we'll discuss the upcoming boonie dog pet show, and it is time to start talking about planting some more Flame Trees. (PR)

MHS Class of '88 meeting

This is to inform the Marianas High School Class of 1988 that there will be a meeting on Thursday, May 15, 2008, at the residence of Melvin and Eleanor Cepeda in As Lito, behind Saipan International School, at 6:30pm.

All classmates are also being reminded that the deadline to submit their dues is May 15, 2008. For more information, contact Lillian Lizama Tudela at 287-3742 or Dennis Villagomez at 287-4689. (PR)

ASVAB testing on Tinian

There will be an ASVAB testing

on Tinian on May 17, 2008, at 9am, at the Tinian NMC Campus Room A & D.

Please show up 30 minutes prior to testing with an identification card, i.e., passport or driver's license. (PR)

CDC hosts Bingo Night fundraiser

The Commonwealth Diabetes Coalition is holding a Bingo Night fundraiser on May 30, from 6pm to 12am, at the Garapan Fishing Base (where the Liberation Day Festival is held every year).

The cost is \$20 per ticket. There will be eight regular games with prizes of \$100 per game, one mini-jacket pot game with a prize of \$250, and one blackout game with a prize of \$450.

For an additional \$20 a separate ticket can be purchased for the "Bingo For Life" game. Prizes for that game are \$50,000 jackpot, \$2,000 consolation prize, and \$1,500 package payout.

Stop by the PT Department at CHC to pick up a ticket (7:30am-4:30pm).

If you aren't able to attend, consider purchasing a ticket in support of the Coalition. There will be volunteers who will play your card for you, and deliver your winnings after the event! (PR)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

May 13, 1999

Gov't may scrap some scholarship programs

With revenue collections continue to drop, the government is considering the elimination of several scholarship programs and instead put in place a financial aid scheme for CNMI students seeking college education. Such plan, which will form part of a package of proposals the administration plans to submit to the Legislature for consideration in order to address funding problem in the scholarship programs while ensuring that students have access to financial assistance to pursue higher education.

Kindergarten program back on track

After careful consideration of its current teaching personnel and budgetary requirements, the Public School System is set to open the kindergarten registration the soonest possible time. Board member Frances Diaz, who heads the Fiscal and Budget committee, said payroll requirements for kindergarten teachers are already part of the Fiscal Year 2000 proposed spending package, thus eliminating the problem on where to source personnel costs.

Pawnbrokers Act could draw legal problems

Pawnbrokers have sought amendment to a recently-signed law regulating the pawnshop business on the island, including lowering the \$500 license fee and clarifying vague provisions that could lead to potential legal dispute. In a letter to members of the Legislature, the CNMI Pawnbrokers Association considered the new fee imposed under Public Law 11-65 as "extremely high" in light of the intent by the government to police the industry.

May 13, 2002

Bank of Saipan reopening planned

Court-appointed Bank of Saipan Receiver Randall T. Fennell unveiled plans to reopen the crisis-torn banking corporation on a limited basis, amid investigation findings that although the bank is "illiquid," it is still solvent-or able to pay debts. In a May 8, 2002 First Receiver's Report submitted to the Superior Court, Fennell disclosed a move to implement the "Bank of Saipan Resurrection Operation Plan," which he described as a "stopgap action to allow bank customers limited access to their funds while preventing a bank run."

Manibusan expands receiver's powers

Superior Court Presiding Judge Edward Manibusan agreed Friday to modify court-appointed Bank of Saipan Receiver Randall Fennell's duties and authority as temporary manager of the embattled banking institution. But the court will continue the BoS receivership hearing on May 29, amid strong opposition from the BoS regarding Fennell's appointment as receiver.

Public help sought in fight against crime

With 28 unsolved cases of murder in the Commonwealth that date back to as far as 1977, the Department of Public Safety's Criminal Investigation Bureau is ratcheting up its campaign to solicit information from the public in the hope of finally solving these unresolved crimes. Tapping the assistance of the Office of the Governor and the Attorney General's Office, the CIB on Friday launched its Crime Stoppers program, which seeks to publicize unsolved murder and homicide cases in an effort to ferret out leads and information from the public.

May 13, 2003

DPS touts proper seatbelt use

The Department of Public Safety's Traffic Division is hoping to reduce the number of road accident fatalities by 90 percent in 2005 through strict implementation of proper seatbelt and child restraint usage. Traffic officials, however, said that this is attainable only with the cooperation of Northern Marianas motorists.

Labor, immigration now fully separate

Beginning Saturday, the Immigration Division is now separate from the Department of Labor and is under the Attorney General's Office. Attorney General Ramona V. Manglona said Executive Order 3-1 is fully in effect, separating the Department of Labor, which remains headed by Secretary Jack Tenorio, and the Division of Immigration, which is now under acting director Tony Sablan.

Commonwealth Government Employees' Credit Union

PO Box 500135, Saipan MP 96950

Debra T. Camacho
Chairwoman

Jose I. Sablan
General Manager

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act, Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez through the Commonwealth Government Employees' Credit Union Board of Directors (BOARD) hereby gives notice that the BOARD has rescheduled its May 13, 2008 meeting to Thursday, May 15, 2008, at 1:30 pm at the Credit Union Office in Capitol Hill, Saipan. The following agenda will be discussed:

- ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**
 - Call to Order
 - Roll Call
 - Adoption of Agenda
 - Adoption of Minutes
February 5, 2008
- GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**
 - Collection Status
 - Financial Report-Monthly
 - Operational Matters
- OLD BUSINESS**
 - Audit Status
 - SCU
- NEW BUSINESS**
 - Election of Officers
- MISCELLANEOUS**
- ADJOURNMENT**

/s/ Frances A. Castro
Secretary



Northern Marianas College Procurement & Property Management Office

CANCELLED INVITATION FOR BID

IFB 08-001 - Paupau Beach Marine- Environmental and Marine-Culture Demonstration Center Construction Project

Northern Marianas College wishes to inform the public that IFB08-001 is being cancelled. The NMC Marine Science and Mari-culture Demonstration Center Project, which was to be housed at the Paupau Beach site, is being relocated; the future site is still to be determined. The college will be soliciting for sealed bids/proposals after a new site has been selected. NMC would like to thank the companies and individuals, who participated in this procurement, for their patience and understanding of our decision to relocate the center.

For information regarding this project please contact Mr. Glenn Keaton at (670) 234-5498 extension 1200 or Duane R.T. Sablan at extension 2300.

Approved by the following:

Duane R.T. Sablan
NMC, Acting Procurement &
Property Management Officer

Glenn Keaton
Chair, NMC Sciences, Maths
Health & Athletics Department

A Land Grant Institution accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges and by The Senior Commission for Colleges and Universities of the Western Association for Schools and Colleges

Island Snapshots



FAMILY FUN NIGHT

A boy shoots the ball at the “Dunking Booth” of the Hyatt Engineering Department during the Team Hyatt Family Fun Night Friday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan beachfront. The event was part of Team Hyatt’s efforts to raise funds for the Marianas March Against Cancer, which will be held on May 16-17 from 6pm to 6am at the Hopwood Junior High School Track & Field in Chalan Piao.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



MANAMKO’ TAKEOVER DAY

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial poses with his *man’amko* counterpart, 73-year-old Juana Dela Cruz, in observance of the traditional *Man’amko* Takeover Day at the Governor’s conference room on Capital Hill Friday. May has been designated as Older Americans Month to honor senior citizens for their valuable contributions to the community.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



Press secretary Charles Reyes with his counterpart Terry Sorroza, 68; Gov. Benigno R. Fitial’s counterpart, Juana Dela Cruz, 73; HPO director Roy Sablan with his counterpart Primitiva Babauta, 67; and DCCA acting Secretary Melvin Faisao gather for a photo during last Friday’s *Man’amko* Takeover Day at the Governor’s Office on Capital Hill.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

THEATRE IN THE ROUND

Johnna Lubuguin (*Cinderella*) and Richille Denora (story teller) perform a scene for the “Cinderella Wore Combat Boots” by Jerry Chase as part of the “One Act Comedies” productions of the Thespians of the Western Pacific Islands at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe Thursday night. The group also performed “An Evening of Culture” by Mark Landon Smith. Participating member schools are CCA, HJHS, MCS, SAEFS and SSHS. Tori Brown, Merrey Len Denora and Ann Mariel Flores directed the productions.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



Gov. Benigno R. Fitial shares a light moment with 73-year-old Juana Dela Cruz and HPO director Roy Sablan at the Governor’s conference room on Capital Hill Friday.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Human Dignity Movement president Jerry Custodio and members gather for a photo after the successful candle light vigil to celebrate the federalization bill’s passage at Garapan Fishing Base Saturday night.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



A NIGHT WITH MLK

Community members listen to Bill Grimmette as he portrays the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. during a Chautauqua performance sponsored by the NMI Humanities Council called “An Evening with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.” at the Hafadai Hotel’s Fiesta Hall Friday night.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



CANDLE LIGHT VIGIL

Local activist Joseph M. Mendiola displays his banner showing support for federalization during a candle light vigil to celebrate the federalization bill’s passage at Garapan Fishing Base Saturday night.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



Coalition of United Guest Workers (CNMI) president Irene N. Tantiado and other members of different workers’ organizations gather for a discussion during a candle light vigil to celebrate the federalization bill’s passage at Garapan Fishing Base Saturday night.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Free the food

Among the many negative consequences of the recent explosion in food prices is that more than 40 countries have taken steps to discourage grain exports — or to stop them altogether. For hard-pressed governments in the developing world, this is a politically tempting and, indeed, understandable approach: One's own hungry citizens come first. But it is fatally shortsighted. Over time, the curtailment in trade simply encourages hoarding and discourages production. The result: shrinking supplies and higher prices.

In some cases export bans have resulted in a cut-off of aid to the destitute people who depend on the United Nations World Food Program (WFP) for their daily bread. The WFP has wisely shifted to purchasing commodities in countries near hunger zones, which both stimulates agricultural markets in the developing world and avoids the high transportation costs associated with U.S. and European grain. But the WFP reports that, in recent weeks, these regional purchases have been stymied by export controls.

The WFP wants to export 2,500 metric tons of cereal from Burkina Faso to Ghana and Niger, but the government of Burkina Faso says no, citing new rules imposed in February. Three shipments to the strategically critical nation of Afghanistan have been obstructed by its neighbors. Pakistan has so far denied a WFP request, made in February, to ship 100,000 metric tons of wheat to hungry Afghans. Iran slapped the WFP with a \$300,000 export tax, forcing it to abandon a purchase of 3,000 metric tons for western Afghanistan. And on April 15, Kazakhstan imposed a ban on wheat exports, scuttling a purchase of 5,500 metric tons.

A laudable exception is India, which has permitted the WFP to buy and ship 25,410 metric tons of rice as a humanitarian exception to that country's ban on rice exports. India is also considering easing its policy more generally.

At a time of real hardship around the globe, this is an issue the United States needs to tackle through strong diplomacy. It does not, to be sure, have much influence on Iran. But it could certainly encourage other countries blocking aid shipments to follow the Indian example. Export controls on food are unwise; when they affect humanitarian aid, they become unconscionable.

(c) 2008, The Washington Post



A merry ol' soul

I read with interest Bill Stewart's 2005 revised and republished article about alternative energy in last week's paper. The argument makes perfect sense as he and several others have pointed out over the years, as our local power generation crisis has grown steadily worse.

Coal-powered, steam-driven turbine generators provide stable, reliable, cost-effective electricity to most of the people on the planet. In our case it bears looking at for several reasons:

First, the cost of refined oil products, especially the expensive top grade diesel fuel our generator engines have been converted to burn, is going up and will continue to go up. Those price increases, already difficult to bear, will soon become impossible to bear, causing ever more people and businesses to abandon the CNMI.

Second, the technology to build and run coal-powered steam generators has been refined and honed to an easy-to-manage science over the years. They are simple and safe to run.

Third, it is fast (which we desperately need) and comparatively cheap to build steam generators. We can afford it.

Forth, the fuel, coal, is the most abundant and by far the cheapest form of fuel to be found on planet Earth and is located in huge abundance nearby and at a cost we can afford to pay. It is easy to buy and easy to transport.

Fifth, we live on a tiny island and where the trade winds cleanse the air continuously. The tiny plants needed to provide us with affordable, reliable electricity can be built using environmentally sensitive technologies that won't do substantial harm to the rest of the world either. We won't notice and neither will they.

Sixth, if we don't do something soon we will all be standing down by the beach rubbing two coconuts together.

I like the idea of alternative energy. Whether a modern version of nuclear as our researcher from Tinian suggests, harnessing the awesome power of the ocean by converting water motion into electricity, or using the alternative carbon-based fuel, coal, each has an appeal. On a smaller scale, wind and solar can be used by individual households and businesses that want to help even more.

We need to ask, beg, cajole, and finally demand that our leaders stop putting their fingers in the CUC dike with short term band aid fixes and cure the root problem of insanely high power costs and increasingly unreliable electric power. The power house is worn out. The engines, once converted from the heavy oil they were intended to run on have never worked properly and are the primary reason for our current electric woes. Let's replace them with a modern coal fueled plant and solve our problems once and for all.

■ ■ ■

Wild Pigs

Do you know how to catch wild pigs?

You catch wild pigs by finding a clearing in the jungle and putting

Sour Grapes

By BRUCE BATEMAN

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Bruce A. Bateman writes *Sour Grapes* when the moon is full and the mood strikes. Stay tuned for each exciting episode. "Yes, he is opinionated." Email: bbateman@pticom.com; Blog: <http://saipanuvian.blogspot.com/>



corn on the ground. The pigs find it and begin to come every day to eat the free corn. When they are used to coming every day you build a fence down one side of the clearing. When they get used to the fence they begin to eat again and you put up another side of the fence in the clearing. You continue until you have all four sides of the fence erected and a gate in one side. The pigs, now used to the free corn, start to come through the open gate to eat some more. That's when you close the gate on them.

At first the pigs run around and around inside the fence squealing in protest, but they are caught. They have lost their freedom. Soon, they go back to eating the free corn. They are so used to it they have forgotten how to forage in the woods for food to feed themselves anyway, so they accept their captivity. There is only one reason why you would want to spend all that "free" corn to catch those wild hogs. You know it.

Think about it the next time you see someone cash in their food stamps, or hear about yet another "free" government handout program, or feel inclined to seek a no-need-to-repay government grant. Think about it again as you line up at the TSA counter to be and show your "papers" so you can travel. Think of it again as you see a man's property confiscated without due process or see a farmer paid to not grow crops. Think of it when someone comes along and wants to decide for you who comes and goes through your borders or who you can employ and how much you should pay them. Think of it when you take that "free" check from the government economic stimulus program in an election year. There ain't no free lunch.

■ ■ ■

Quotes of the week: If there are no stupid questions, then what kind of questions do stupid people ask? Do they get smart just in time to ask questions?

—Scott Adams (1957 -)

Government is actually the worst failure of civilized man. There has never been a really good one, and even those that are most tolerable are arbitrary, cruel, grasping and unintelligent.

—H.L. Mencken (1880 - 1956)

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Personalities and politics of a marine monument

To get me started I will refer to Ruth Tighe's "On My Mind" and her comments this past week regarding the proposed marine monument. I quote:

"Perhaps the offer was not made in the most appropriate manner, did not include some of the key people, did not take the traditional approach, was not sufficiently forthcoming. But that is not reason enough to reject the project. It is, after all, the project that is important, has meaning, that offers hope, not others' missteps. What is being asked of the CNMI is that it be open-minded, flexible, creative and imaginative, willing to grasp a golden opportunity when it presents itself, to take advantage of an offer that would bring the CNMI international recognition and attention, attract tourists, stimulate the economy, help fishermen, and last but not least, help preserve and protect the marine environment so critical to the Earth's health".

She's absolutely right. Everyone should strip this proposal down and examine it for what it is. To date, for many reasons, this has just not happened.

For one, many people don't like the locally hired Pew coordinator, or lobbyist if you prefer. No doubt Angelo O'Connor Villagomez can be cocky and arrogant. His sense of humor often easily missed, especially by strangers. The fact remains that nearly everything he has touched on this island after returning two years ago has turned out pretty darn well. He's a big part of the success of both BCNMI and MINA and the countless projects, cleanups and education that has come from his role as islandwide motivator and coordinator. Much of the buzz of optimism that once ran through many of us willing to stick it out through these tough times was fed by the level of energy and "get it done attitude" that bursts from Angelo. Ultimately, he is young and passionate. A powerful combination that will lead to mistakes along the road to many more successes. I'd be surprised if he doesn't already wish he could start over again on this one. No doubt with experience he will bring the lessons learned here to the next pot of success he boils. Angelo is an environmentalist through and through. In Angelo's eyes this marine park is a "no brainer".

Unfortunately this attitude, along with a time frame that most here would consider very short (especially given the current level of distrust between the CNMI and Washington) must be considered significant factors should this proposal not take flight.

As Ruth says, the bottom line is none of this should matter. If everyone were to take a fair and open look at what has been proposed thus far, the merits to keeping an open dialogue would be obvious.

The same could be said for Mr. John Gourley's rapid and vocal opposition to the project, which, I must say, also smells of obvious vested

interest. In the end it shouldn't matter that John, for many years, has acted as an advisor and contact person (or lobbyist if you prefer) for the troubled WESPAC advisory council. It shouldn't matter that WESPAC is a powerful, pro-fisheries regulatory body very much against any large scale no take or limited take zones under any pretense. Of course we can understand why, doing anything otherwise would ultimately undermine their own level of control of the world's oceans.

Some might even suggest that a few high-powered fisheries folks won't like the fact I've given so much credit to Angelo's attitude and a time frame out of their own control as reasons for the possible demise of the proposal. After all it makes it look like they had nothing to do with it despite the obvious evidence to the contrary!

Even though none of this should matter we all know it does and after speaking briefly with Mr. Lino Olopai on Thursday and then reading his letter to the editor on Friday, I've come to appreciate just how unimportant the facts are and how instrumental both Mr. Gourley's opposition and the missteps taken by Pew in attempting to fast track this concept have been.

Before I continue let me reiterate what I've said before about what I believe to be the view of most everyone here on Saipan. The concept of a marine park is, at the very least worth discussing and potentially (if done right) it is the best thing that has come this way in a long, long time. Unfortunately, the rhetoric and misinformation has been substantial and influential.

Lino has resigned from MINA stating that he cannot and has not from the beginning, supported the Pew approach. He mentions the MINA retreat where Jay Nelson first introduced the members to the project and how put off he was by their approach. I was there. There was a lot of conversation and debate as to whether this was something MINA wanted to spearhead and take on. The issue was not the establishment of a large marine protected area but rather MINA's role in promoting it. Ultimately, the board felt it would be too politically hot a topic for a young NGO to deal with despite majority support for the concept. The board at the time decided (as I perceived it) to concentrate on building their successful track record by biting off smaller projects that could be completed in a reasonable amount of time.

What is most interesting to me now is to recall just how vocal and prepared John Gourley was for that meeting and how he was able to immediately play on the local distrust for the federal government. I recall Lino not necessarily being against the concept of a protected area but rather he didn't like the idea of foreigners telling the local people how to preserve and protect their own environment. Understandably he didn't like the idea being pushed by Gourley that the local people would lose control.

By MIKE TRIPP

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Mike Tripp is the president of Mike Tripp Productions and Marianas Dive and is the producer of The Underwater World of Saipan DVD. For more discussion on this topic please refer to www.saipanscuba.blogspot.com.

As I've gotten to know Lino one of the things we always seem to come back to in our discussions is his belief that the local indigenous peoples are best suited to be the stewards of the land and sea. He believes that they have the knowledge necessary to conserve and live by nature's rules. While I believe this is true and should it be the case that only the indigenous islanders have influence on the resources, I would agree with him fully. However, the fact remains with each passing generation more and more of this knowledge once seen as critical for survival is being lost. In addition, as years pass the influence of outside cultures becomes more and more prevalent as seen in both the populous numbers and the deterioration of our environment. As a net result, over time, there is a decrease in local indigenous control and the ability to influence actions and behaviors of others.

When Lino said to me the other day, "the people of the CNMI can do this, we don't need Pew," I asked him what the plan is for those islands and for these islands we live on now. His response, to me said a lot. With a smile he half-joked "None, we don't have one".

Well, unfortunately, with all due respect, the absence of a plan usually means things will not work out so well for anyone. What's really frustrating to me is given all the issues and speculation regarding who would control the waters, who would co-manage it, how the regulations would be developed and enforced, who'll pay for it etc, few now see how the monument would actually give them (the local indigenous peoples) far more say in the way things are to be managed than they have right now.

Would it not make sense to sit at the table and be a part of the discussions and give the indigenous peoples the opportunity to protect these waters the way they want to. If it takes 10 years of writing and re-writing regulations, is that not better than never getting started and leaving all control to outside forces? Should this process happen when elders like Lino are here to pass on their wisdom? Absolutely! This is just one more reason why the time to look at this

See **PERSONALITIES** on Page 13

Letters to the Editor

Guide to 'modifying' your lifestyle

"The new rates might come as a shock for the residential customers, but the only solution to it for now is some modification to their lifestyle."

—Antonio Muna, CUC executive director

Dear Mr. Muna:

Forget about trying to explain to the general public on how or why you more than doubled our power rates. I just want to thank you for telling us to "modify" our lifestyle. Apparently, shutting off our air conditioners, unplugging our appliances, disconnecting the water heater, canceling our Internet and cable service, and replacing all of our lights with energy-efficient bulbs was just not enough!

In a fitting tribute to you, Mr. Muna, I have decided to truly modify our lifestyle, and I hope others will follow suit. With all of our weak attempts at cutting back on our electricity consumption, it appears we have not gone far enough. Mr. Muna, please review the following guidelines I have taken to "modify" my family's lifestyle. I sincerely hope it meets your approval.

Stop buying toilet paper. You heard me. Toilet paper is a luxury item! Did our ancestors use toilet paper? Did they even have toilets? Heck no! Look in your backyard. There are tons of banana leaves to go around! Best of all, it's free and environmentally friendly. Note: Be sure you do not use sword grass. I made that mistake and couldn't sit down for three days.

Stop buying groceries. Why in the world are we shopping these days? Don't you know that shopping is a luxury item? Yes, I know you and your family have to eat. So did our ancestors! We need to get in touch with our roots and go back to hunting and gathering. I hear there are wild boar up on Mt. Topochao. And fishing is plentiful if you go to Susupe Lake. Sure, the fish is a bit toxic and some of them have two heads. But who cares? It will fill your belly! As for gathering, there are plenty of wild berries, papaya, bananas, and

other natural produce growing wild all over Saipan. Just be sure you don't end up on someone's farm and get shot at, which is exactly what happened to me two days ago. Thank goodness it was only a .22 caliber rifle and I was only grazed in the arm!

Don't dine out. Why on earth would you take your family out for dinner? Don't you know we need to modify our lifestyle? Instead, call every government agency on island and find out when and where they are holding their meetings, forums, workshops, and seminars. Then bring your whole family and enjoy the free feast! Also, bring a big bag lined with plastic so you can be sure to bring *balutan* for your other family members who couldn't make it.

Sell your car. How dare you think you should have a car in these trying times! Don't you know automobiles are a luxury item? If you are like 75 percent of the rest of the island, you are already employed by the government. The government has tons of government cars that are used to run important errands, like going to the bank, picking and dropping off their kids to school, going out to lunch, or playing a few quick games of poker. All you need to do is borrow the government car and forget to return it. Or tell your boss that an emergency came up and that you need the car because you need to attend a novena (Don't forget the *balutan*!). If you are the other 25 percent of the island that is not employed by our government, then use that thumb of yours! Hitchhiking is the latest trend in lifestyle modification! When it comes to modifying your lifestyle, nothing beats getting a free ride around the island! Biba hitchhiking! *Note: Hitchhiking is not recommended for attractive, young women who frequently wear mini-skirts. Please utilize your good looks and call all your single male friends for free rides. They will drop whatever they are doing and take you wherever you want.*

Don't pay your power bill. Electricity is over-rated. Do we really need it? Could we survive without it? Absolutely! Candles are attractive and can be so romantic when you are eating the *balu-*

tan you got from the government workshop you attended earlier in the day. If candles aren't bright enough, go ahead and splurge and fire up the kerosene lantern! Just don't spoil the family too much with it. Why do we need to pay our power bill anyway? I mean, there are a lot of huge companies out there in arrears who owe CUC millions, and they never pay their bills. They aren't disconnected. Oops, I forgot. We aren't important! We're low-lying, bottom-feeding residential customers who need to know our place. Big businesses rule and us residential peons don't! It is as simple as that. So I say, disconnect your power. You really don't need it! Mr. Muna, I only listed five guidelines to modify our lifestyle. I have 20 more, but I am selling those online at www.bibacorruption.com for only \$999.99. Act now and I'll throw in some of my best-selling novels for free, including:

■ *Robbing Peter to Pay Paul - The History of the CNMI Government*

■ *You Pay us or Else! - The CUC Chronicles*

■ *Did I say Better Times? - Governor Ben Fitial, Misinterpreted and Misunderstood*

■ *Working Again after 70 - An Employment Guide for the Soon-To-Be-Bankrupt CNMI Retirement Fund's Retirees*

■ *Not My Discretionary Fund! - A Congressman's Heroic Fight to Save His Discretionary Fund from Greedy Taxpayers*

■ *Do As I Say, Not As I Do - Tips from Elected Officials on How to Win an Election Ask Me No Questions and I'll Tell You No Lies- Tips from Elected Officials on How to Stay in Office.*






Mr. Muna, again, thank you for your wake-up call. We all should be ashamed of ourselves for not modifying our lifestyle appropriately. Hopefully, with my guidelines being followed, better times can finally be achieved! Thanks again for more than doubling our power rates, and I sincerely hope you double it again real soon. By the way, please advise government employees to keep those jackets handy because it sure is cold in their offices! We wouldn't want them catching cold now!

Ed Propst
via e-mail

Sattelite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼75°	▲85° ▼76°	▲86° ▼77°	▲84° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Cloudy	▲86 ▼75
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲85 ▼77
Yap	Partly Sunny	▲89 ▼77
Chuuk	Thundestroms	▲88 ▼78
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲84 ▼72
Kosrae	Partly Sunny	▲90 ▼77
Majuro	Thundershowers	▲83 ▼74

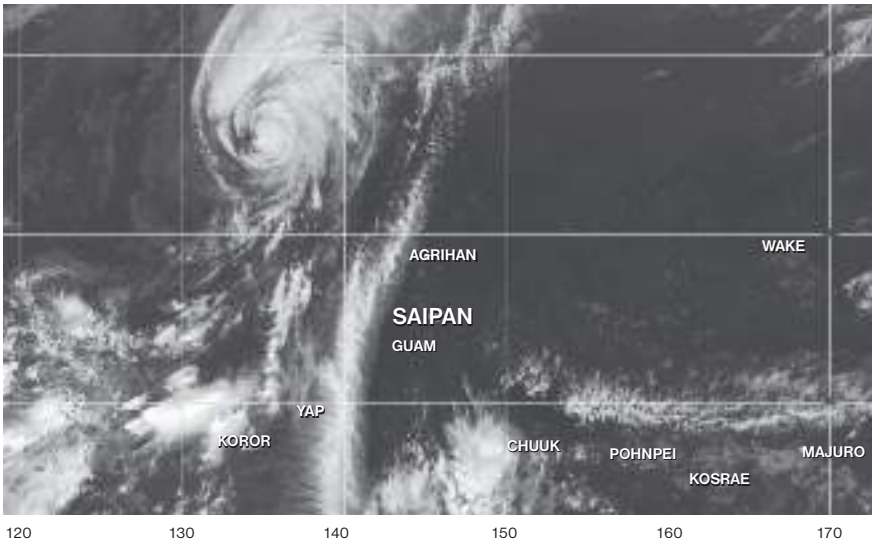
Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲58 ▼54
Beijing	Partly Sunny	▲72 ▼55
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	▲83 ▼73
Honolulu	Partly Sunny	▲80 ▼69
London	Partly Sunny	▲76 ▼56
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲75 ▼56
Manila	Showers	▲88 ▼76
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲68 ▼54
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲87 ▼69
New York	Partly Sunny	▲65 ▼49
Osaka	Partly Sunny	▲64 ▼53
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲75 ▼58
Pusan	Thundershowers	▲61 ▼52
Rome	Thunderstorms	▲72 ▼56
Salem	Cloudy	▲64 ▼50
San Francisco	Sunny	▲73 ▼52
Seoul	Rain	▲61 ▼46
Tokyo	Showers	▲61 ▼54
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲67 ▼49

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
3:13AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
9:19AM Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet
1:57PM Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet
8:48PM Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, MAY 12, 2008

Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Typhoon 03W (Ramasun) centered near 25N135E is moving northeast at 17 mph. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms associated with inflow toward the typhoon are found north of a line from 19N130E to 19N138E. For more detailed information, see JTWC warnings issued under WMO header WTPN31 PGTW. Converging winds are producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms north and west of Koror and Yap or west of a line from 6N133E to 10N136E to 19N138E. Converging winds are also triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms along the equator well south of Koror or south of a line from 2N130E to 2N137E. Trade-wind convergence is combining with upper-level divergence to generate scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms in two areas over eastern Micronesia. One area is west and southwest of Chuuk within an area bounded by 6N142E to 10N152E to EQ152E to EQ142E back to 6N142E. The second area is broadly spread between the equator and 10N from from 152E to 175E and is affecting Pohnpei and Kosrae. A trade-wind disturbance is creating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms east of Majuro near the date line or east of a line from 6N175E to 8N175E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:49AM	6:38PM
Wednesday	5:49AM	6:38PM
Thursday	5:48AM	6:39PM
Friday	5:48AM	6:39PM
Saturday	5:48AM	6:39PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	1:07PM	1:07AM
Wednesday	1:56PM	1:44AM
Thursday	2:45PM	2:20AM
Friday	3:32PM	2:54AM
Saturday	4:20PM	3:29AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

- PICTURES**
 - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
 - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
 - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - SAMU'T SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
 - COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

- For pictures:**
 - Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 8, 2008

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
Saipan-Rota CO 9313 8:30am 9:05am 3,4,7	Rota-Saipan CO 9598 11:10am 11:45am 1,2,6
Saipan-Guam CO9317 4:00am 4:50am Daily CO9597 8:30am 9:20am 1,2,5,6 CO9313 8:30am 10:00am 3,4,7 via Rota CO9601 12:30pm 1:20pm Daily CO9603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily CO9605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily CO9599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily	Guam-Saipan CO 9316 2:30am 3:20am Daily CO9596 7:00am 7:50am Daily CO9598 10:15am 11:45am 1,2,6 via Rota CO9600 10:45am 11:35am 3,4,5,7 CO9602 2:00pm 2:50pm Daily CO9604 5:00pm 5:50pm Daily CO9606 8:00pm 8:50pm Daily
Saipan-Narita NW 078 8:40am 2:00pm Daily via Nagoya NW 075 4:45pm 7:25pm Daily	Narita-Saipan NW 076 10:15am 2:50pm Daily NW 077 6:25pm 1:25am+1 Daily via Nagoya
Saipan-Osaka NW 083 4:20pm 7:10pm Daily	Osaka-Saipan NW 084 10:30am 3:05pm Daily
Saipan-Nagoya NW 078 8:40am 11:25am Daily	Nagoya-Saipan NW 077 9:00pm 1:25am+1 Daily
Saipan-Manila CO 895 4:45pm 6:35pm 6 CO 895 6:45pm 8:35pm 3	Manila-Saipan CO 890 9:15am 2:55pm 6 CO 890 11:45am 5:35pm 3
Saipan-Seoul OZ 604 2:20am 6:00am 1 OZ 604 2:50am 6:30am 2,3,4,5,6,7 OZ 606 3:30pm 7:00pm 2,4,6,7	Seoul-Saipan OZ 605 9:00am 2:30pm 2,4,6,7 OZ 603 7:40pm 1:10am+1 7 OZ 603 8:10pm 1:40am+1 1,2,3,4,5,6
Saipan-Busan OZ 608 3:50am 7:20am 1,4,5,7	Busan-Saipan OZ 607 9:30pm 2:50am+1 3,4,6,7
Guam-Manila CO 891 6:00am 10:30am 3 via Yap and Koror CO 893 6:30am 8:05am 6 CO 893 8:25am 10:00am 2,7 CO 893 5:50pm 9:10pm 5 via Koror CO 933 7:00pm 8:40pm Daily PR 111 6:00am 7:45am 1,2,4,6,7	Manila-Guam CO 894 11:20am 4:55pm 2,7 CO 894 7:45pm 1:20am+1 6 CO 892 9:45pm 6:30am+1 3 via Koror and Yap CO 892 10:10pm 5:30am+1 5 via Koror CO 934 10:55pm 4:30am+1 Daily PR 110 10:15pm 4:00am+1 1,3,5,6,7
Saipan-Guanzhou CZ 3008 5:00am 8:00am 2,6	Guanzhou-Saipan CZ 3007 8:00pm 4:00am+1 1,5
Guam-Hongkong CO 909 6:40pm 9:25pm 1,5	Hongkong-Guam CO 910 10:35pm 5:15am+1 1,5
Guam-Rota CO 9598 10:15am 10:45am 1,2,6	Rota-Guam CO 9313 9:30am 10:00am 3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily	FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily	FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily	FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily	Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
Guam-Rota				FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily	FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily	FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily	FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily	FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily	FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily	FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily	FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily	FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily				
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily				



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Letters to the Editor

Make the devastation of our natural world stop!

The newspapers recently reported that Governor Fitial wrote to President Bush saying no to a national marine monument in the Marianas Trench at Uracas, Maug, and Asuncion. Here is what was reported and some thoughts:

He (the Governor) spoke of the longstanding dispute between the U.S. and CNMI governments over the ownership and management of submerged lands around the Northern Marianas.

Our CNMI students participate in mock trial, write essays and debate over legal issues, and have learned an important quality about judicial decisions. It's called "finality" --that attribute of a court decision when all appeals are exhausted. And it means that the matter is *settled, over, finite, done, resolved, and final*. The CNMI litigated and lost the submerged lands issue. There is no longer a dispute between the U.S. and the CNMI about this matter. And the Governor's foolish adherence to a claim that has been lost has no merit.

It certainly isn't a reason to reject a proposal to save our oceans and promote conservation before we've ruined beyond redemption the entire globe.

He (the Governor) is also concerned that the designation would restrict the indigenous people's ability to fish and conduct related activities in the proposed site.

Why is it that we are concerned that conservation limits our activities? Of course it does. That's its purpose. We need those limits because our natural resources are limited. If we don't limit ourselves, we will deplete our natural world.

We rely on fishing as a source of food and jobs.

We do not depend on fishing in the waters around the three northern-most islands for anything now. We're not fishing there. Who has jobs that relate to industry or fishing around Uracas, Maug, or Asuncion that would be lost by creation of a marine sanctuary?

No one in the CNMI. But in case there is someone at present in the CNMI fishing around Uracas, Maug, and Asuncion, the creation of the sanctuary can include regulations to allow anyone who is currently invested in fishing in those waters a time period to recoup their investment and withdraw from fishing there. In Hawaii, the few fishing interests in the area that was eventually protected by the marine monument were given 5 years to keep fishing. Here, there's been some talk that the Ocean Legacy of Pew Charitable Trust would buy back any boats and gear after the time period for fishing expires, so investors would not lose their investment.

But again, I ask, who is fishing around Uracas, Maug, and Asuncion?

Right now, according to Pete A. in his State of the Commonwealth address, there is satellite evidence that these waters are being poached. The waters are part of the United States' Exclusive Economic Zone. The CNMI is not protecting anything, and not benefiting either. The U.S. Coast Guard is following up on the satellite evidence.

But think—it's better to protect the area than let it be devastated by poaching and unrestricted use. Stronger regulations, stronger protections may help.

"Those who live in the CNMI have no interest in ceding their cultural heritage to the federal government under the auspices of environmental protectionism," he (the Governor) said.

PERSONALITIES

From Page 11

is now. Ultimately if what we see and hear is not to our liking then simply say no and take the bits and pieces we do like and incorporate them into our own plan. Of course, by waiting we'll also need to remember it will be our own money and not that of a large, well-respected, charitable group that will make any such plan a reality.

Unfortunately, as usual, scare tactics and dissemination of inaccurate information is no match for good old-fashioned discussions based on truth and mutual respect. If the opposite were true we'd still be talking and using whatever information comes from this proposal process to either make it happen now or to assist in developing a plan that is so desperately needed for the future.

The fact that both Angelo and John have vested interests in how all this turns out shouldn't matter to any of us. The fact is we have a vested interest! We all owe it to ourselves, our children and our children's children to listen, get the facts and make an informed decision based on what is good for our planet and our quality of life here, now and in the future.

In real life, facts rarely compete in a world where perceptions rule. In the case of the proposed monument the public relations game is preventing the delivery of many tangible assets regardless of whether the monument becomes a reality or not. Killing the discussions now does no one any good unless, of course, your source of revenue is WESPAC-based.

Conserving our marine environment is not ceding anyone's cultural heritage. Letting WESPAC and its henchmen get to our Legislators and officials to vote against protecting our marine environment is ceding our cultural heritage.

The most vocal opposition to the marine sanctuary, national marine monument, has come from John Gourley, who is a member of an advisory council for WESPAC. WESPAC is a federal agency that promotes fishing--and right now, the FISHING interests are in control of our oceans. Their financial interest is to take as much as they can get away with, and they have caused tremendous damage to the world's oceans, as reported in numerous scientific and popular journals and newspapers.

This commercial fishing is *not* our cultural heritage, where islanders took small amounts of fish for what they needed on any given day. Now, commercial fishing vessels scooping up everything, and throwing back into the ocean dead creatures—the "by-catch" they don't want—keeping the haul that is commercially viable for them.

This commercial fishing is not the CNMI's cultural heritage. This harm to the ocean is not the CNMI's cultural heritage. This failure to respect the marine environment is not our cultural heritage.

The governor argued that the Commonwealth is looking at fishery as an economic growth engine to replace the declining garment and tourism industries. He said the loss of about 115,000 square miles of ocean area due to inclusion in a national monument would significantly impact this economic effort.

Why is our Governor embracing this type of harm and speaking of it as our cultural right? Didn't we learn anything from the problems with the garment industry? When you choose as your livelihood something that hurts people or the world, it's not a sound basis for an economy. "Our" garment industry brought us shame and a horrible world image, bad press, and a scarred moral compass. The Governor may have gotten rich off it, but that doesn't mean it was good for the CNMI.

Tourism is not a perfect industry, but for all its faults, it does invite people to share our islands, our culture, our lives. It offers respite and recreation. This is a sound economic choice.

Our tourism industry is declining, but we can turn that around with good decisions. A healthy commitment to a clean and conserved natural environment would be a huge step in the right direction

Instead, our Governor wants to now promote a joint venture with WESPAC? Commercial fishing where we take from our waters what little is left? Do we really think that commercial fishing, as it presently exists, is going to improve our world? Is it a sound basis for our economy?

No. Commercial fishing as our CNMI future is not what we want. I'm not talking about our small local fishermen, who catch and sell to the local hotels, sell as street vendors, and give to their families. That is not the "commercial" fishing I'm discussing. I'm talking about the large fisheries that would canvass the entire ocean, that would want no protection of the waters. Commercial fisheries that support the tuna canneries that American Samoa is presently having a tough time keeping. At present, this commercial fishing is depleting our oceans.

The U.S. has put the fishing interests in charge of its EEZs—except for areas designated for protection. This is why we have WESPAC presently "regulating" fishing in the Pacific waters around the CNMI. This is why WESPAC opposes the marine monument—it will take away some of its "turf" and transfer it to the sanctuaries division of NOAA. The people in control of WESPAC have been charged with flagrant violations of conflict of interest, are being investigated for illegal lobbying of state legislators, and have lost in litigation for failing to take even steps to protect marine life. While WESPAC has been successful in aiding commercial fishing interests, it has done a deplorable job when viewed from an ecological, conservation perspective.

Why do we turn a blind eye to the past damage and continuing harm these fishing interests and WESPAC are doing? Because there are liars and cheats among us, people willing to twist the facts and

prey on fears and prejudices to get what they want, to keep their pockets full while emptying us of our world's natural resources.

Twist the facts to pretend we'll lose control that we don't have. Prey on fears about the federal government, when WESPAC, which is now in control, itself is a federal agency.

If commercial fishing does not mean devastation of our oceans, if commercial fishing insists that it believes in protecting marine life, too--then let it support a marine sanctuary. Why can't we protect one-third of the ocean around the CNMI with a marine sanctuary? Isn't two-thirds of the EEZ enough for fishing?

One of the most important protections the globe has is from the ocean's coral--more significant than rain forests. And our ocean health depends on complete and healthy eco-systems. Why do we not want to protect 1/3 of our waters? That may not be enough, but at least it's something! We have a chance to do our part. Let's do it!

Further, the governor said, Hawaii's experience with its marine monument showed a lack of procedural safeguards to ensure public involvement and environmental review during the designation process.

This sounds like another distortion of the truth. What do you see happening here in the CNMI? Angelo Villagomez, on behalf of Pew Charitable Trust, is going out getting comments, talking with people. We already have public involvement.

In the Hawaii process, Angelo reported that there were hundreds of thousands of comments taken, both before and after the designation--comments that were considered, comments that helped shape the eventual final project.

Instead, it is the Governor who is shutting down the process, not letting us be heard! Where is the due process and public involvement in the Governor's way of handling this? There is *none*.

Press secretary Charles P. Reyes Jr. said that federal enforcement funding may be a concern. He said the U.S. Coast Guard was not given any additional money or resources to extend patrols in Hawaii's monument area, and a similar scenario is likely if a Northern Marianas monument is created.

If this were true, how would it weigh against a marine sanctuary? Would we be worse off? No! The Coast Guard patrols now, and the Coast Guard patrols after a designation of the area as a marine sanctuary. We'd like it to be better; we'd like it to have more money. With a marine monument designation, there's a better argument for more money. But if no more money is given directly to the Coast Guard, that is no reason to say we don't want to protect this marine environment!

The people of the CNMI and their elected leaders do not want an outside group to permanently force a decision on them without their consent. This decision is too important to be left to Pew and their supporters. The people of the CNMI must decide if they want to give up a resource forever and forego all other opportunities or developments. This is democracy.

We don't want an "inside" group permanently forcing a decision on us without our consent, either! This is a democracy! How many public hearings has the Governor or the Legislature held on this issue? *How dare you speak* as if you know what the public wants when you have done *nothing* to find out! The decision is too important to be left to Charles Reyes Jr. or Governor Fitial, or our Legislature who have not listened. It is ironic that John Gourley complains that Pew Charitable Trust hasn't listened to him—he is one voice, speaking with and from the experience of an advisory council member for WESPAC. If you want to be heard, then let the process continue so that we can all have a voice on the matter.

Please make the stupidity stop. Make corruption stop. Make the devastation of our natural world stop!

Prevent WESPAC from doing further damage. Wrest these waters from their control and protect the EEZ around Uracas, Maug, and Asuncion by making them into a marine monument!

Jane Mack
San Vicente, Saipan

Acknowledgement of OPA response on SHEFA request

Michael S. Sablan
Office of the Public Auditor

Dear Mr. Sablan:

This is to acknowledge the delivery of OPA's April 28, 2008 letter and accompanying documents in response to SHEFA's request for any and all pertinent information relative to OPA's "review" of SHEFA.

The documents provided by OPA on April 28, 2008 would be a basis for SHEFA's response to OPA's "review" report issued last month.

SHEFA anticipates the completion of its own review and will submit its response to OPA by the end of the month.

Should we need additional time, we will request an extension at the appropriate time. Again, we want to thank you for your cooperation and for the opportunity to present SHEFA's response.

Felicidad T. Ogumoro
Chairwoman
Board of Directors
Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance

Business

Rebate excludes many with foreign spouses

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—When Maulit Shelat heard about the Bush administration's plan to pump up the economy by sending out stimulus checks, he sat down with his wife and drew up a list of priorities: first up, remodeling the bathroom.

But Shelat is married to a foreigner who still hasn't completed the often years-long process that allows her to apply for a Social Security number. Her not having that number makes even him ineligible for the tax rebate checks that started going out last week because they filed jointly.

He is among an estimated hundreds of thousands of taxpayers—from legal immigrants to soldiers based abroad—who won't be getting a share of the stimulus package because of a provision aimed at preventing illegal immigrants from getting rebates.

"I would have fed this economy as well," said Shelat, an Indian chemical engineer living with his wife and two children in the Buffalo, N.Y.-area. "We live within this economy, work, pay taxes, do everything by the book. Whatever the reasons for giving this economic stimulus package, they apply to us as well."

When lawmakers decided to send out the checks, ranging from \$300 to \$600 per adult



Ranjeet Kumar and wife, Minanshu Jha, holds a copy of their tax forms at their home in San Jose, Calif., Friday, May 9, 2008.

taxpayer, plus another \$300 for each child, they formulated it so only taxpayers who

have Social Security numbers would qualify.

The rule unintentionally

caught many taxpayers who would have qualified for the bonus, except they filed jointly with a spouse whose immigration status doesn't allow them to have a Social Security number. Among them are some of the 288,000 troops stationed overseas who may have married a foreigner.

"An American soldier who has married someone from another country and is waiting for an (immigration) petition to get approved—that soldier not getting that check is stupid," said Rep. Zoe Lofgren, D-Calif., whose district includes Silicon Valley, home of many high-tech workers who fell through the rebate cracks.

It's not clear how many members of the Armed Forces posted abroad have married foreigners. But officials in overseas bases say they can't do anything about the Internal Revenue Service's policy.

"The U.S. military doesn't have any input in IRS practices and procedures," said Air Force Major Pamela Cook, with the U.S. European Command in Stuttgart, Germany. "It's true that service members and anybody who is married to someone without a Social Security number is affected. But it's not in our lane to talk."

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Wall Street looks to US consumers for direction

NEW YORK (AP)—With millions of stimulus checks going out to taxpayers, Wall Street wants to know where that money will be spent—and this week's data could help investors gauge the mind-set of the average consumer. Tax rebates have historically been helpful in boosting the economy, but they only really work if they're used to buy goods and services. Last week was a downbeat one in the stock market, with the major indexes retrenching following three straight weeks of gains as a few poor earnings results and surging oil prices weighed on investors. The Dow Jones industrial average sank 2.39 percent, the Standard & Poor's dropped 1.81 percent, and the Nasdaq composite index slid 1.27 percent.

Retailers likely to post grim 1st-quarter results

NEW YORK (AP)—After slashing inventory and cutting expenses, the retail industry is still bracing for the largest overall quarterly profit decline in at least nine years when merchants report their first-quarter earnings this week. Faced with one of the worst consumer spending climates in almost two decades, stores are going to have to find clever ways to attract increasingly thrifty shoppers contending with higher gas and food bills and a slumping housing market. Retailers reported better-than-expected sales at established stores for April, but that doesn't mean that shoppers have been in the mood to splurge. Business was boosted by heavy discounting and a quirk in the calendar that meant an extra shopping day compared with the year-ago period.

G-8 labor officials begin 3-day meeting in Japan

TOKYO (AP)—Labor ministers from the Group of Eight industrialized nations met with international trade union and business groups Sunday to discuss the reduction of workplace emissions of "greenhouse" gases blamed for global warming, officials said. The talks, in Niigata on Japan's north coast, are aimed at boosting support for global environmental initiatives before Japan hosts the G-8 summit in July. The labor ministers, whose formal talks start Monday, are also expected to address concerns about growing income disparity, aging and uncertainty over financial markets, Japan's Health and Welfare Ministry said.

Person close to talks: Cablevision close to getting Newsday

NEW YORK (AP)—Cablevision Systems Corp. is close to buying the Long Island newspaper Newsday from Tribune Co. for \$650 million, a person with knowledge of the situation said Sunday. The deal, which could be announced as soon as Monday, would net Cablevision, a cable TV company also based on Long Island, its first newspaper. It would also provide much-needed cash to Tribune Co., which is struggling under \$8.2 billion in debt it took on when it went private last December. News that Cablevision was close to a deal came one day after Rupert Murdoch's News Corp. rescinded its own \$580 million bid, despite assurances from Murdoch himself just three days earlier that he would prevail over Cablevision within a week.

Mickelson joins IConnect as GM

IConnect, a leading provider of Push-2-Talk radio and cellular services in the CNMI and Guam, announced yesterday that Hans Mickelson has been named general manager of IConnect's CNMI operations.

With over 10 years' experience in the wireless arena, Mickelson will be responsible for expanding IConnect's sales networks and revenues throughout the Island chain. He will oversee CNMI consumer and enterprise sales and service markets, and undertake full responsibility for internal and external marketing, promotions and support teams.

Mickelson's vast experience in the CNMI telecommunica-



Mickelson

tions market includes serving as general manager at Saipancell Communications where he suc-

cessfully grew the business into a wireless powerhouse, then moving to Verizon Communications in 2002 to head up their Wireless Division. Verizon sold to PTI in 2004 where Mickelson's PTI team continued to grow the wireless product line to jump to the top wireless spot in the CNMI. He began his CNMI communications career in 1988 in the radio industry as general manager of the KZMI radio group.

"IConnect Communications will benefit greatly from Mr. Mickelson's overall experience in this arena and his complete understanding of the CNMI market," said Matt Giger, IConnect vice president. "He is a seasoned

executive in our dynamic industry, with strong managerial and leadership qualities. In the last 10-years, no one has sold more wireless product and services in the CNMI than Mr. Mickelson. We are confident that his skills and experience, together with his enthusiasm, will guide our team to advanced levels of activity."

Mickelson said: "I am extremely excited to join the rest of IConnect's strong management team and to work with a company with such tremendous potential, I look forward to building on and continuing IConnect's history of solid execution as it pursues numerous CNMI opportunities for profitable growth." (iConnect)

Study says retirement savers make costly 401(k) mistakes

NEW YORK (AP) -- Despite extensive efforts to educate workers about saving for retirement, many employees are not doing a good job of managing their company-sponsored 401(k) accounts, a new study indicates.

The analysis of nearly 1 million retirement portfolios found that 69 percent have inappropriate risk or diversification of holdings and 36 percent have worrisome concentrations of company stock. In addition, one-third of savers aren't put-

ting enough aside to qualify for the full company matching contribution.

The problems are especially pronounced among young and low-paid workers, according to the study by Financial Engines, a Palo Alto, Calif.-based firm that provides investment advice and managed accounts for defined contribution plans like 401(k)s.

"Unfortunately, our study found that those who need their 401(k) the most look to be benefiting the

least," Jeff Maggioncalda, Financial Engines' president and chief executive, said in an interview.

Maggioncalda said that some of the performance problems will dissipate as companies adopt automatic enrollment programs for workers, as authorized by the Pension Protection Act two years ago.

Still, he said, the data should help plan sponsors and other industry professionals "figure out who needs help and how

ON THE NET
<http://www.financialengines.com>

China's April inflation rises to 8.5 percent

BEIJING (AP)—China's inflation rebounded in April to near decade-high levels, adding to pressure on Beijing to cool rapid price rises and avert possible unrest ahead of the Summer Olympics, according to official data reported Monday.

Consumer prices in April were up 8.5 percent compared with the same month last year, the National Statistics Bureau reported. That was up from March's 8.3 percent rate and just short of February's 8.7 percent, the highest inflation rate in nearly 12 years.

Prices have jumped since mid-2007, driven by rises in

food costs that hit 22.1 percent in April. The government has been trying to cool price rises for pork, grain and other items by increasing supplies and has imposed price controls on basic goods.

"We believe the April inflation data suggests that it is still far too early to claim success in the battle against inflation," Goldman Sachs economists Yu Song and Hong Liang said in a report to clients.

Soaring food prices are especially worrisome to Beijing because they hit China's poor majority hardest.

Nation

Over 20 dead after new round of storms

PICHER, Okla. (AP)—Crews and search dogs hunted Sunday for survivors or bodies in piles of debris after tornadoes and storms rumbled across the region a day earlier and killed at least 21 people in three states.

Six people died in Picher, once a bustling mining center of 20,000 that dwindled to about 800 people as families fled lead pollution there, and officials held out hope that they wouldn't find any more bodies.

Residents said the tornado created a surreal scene as it tore through town Saturday afternoon, injuring 150 people, overturning cars, damaging dozens of homes and throwing mattresses and twisted metal high into the canopy of trees.

"I swear I could see cars floating," said Herman Hernandez, 68. "And there was a roar, louder and louder."

Ed Keheley was headed to



Residents sort through the remains of their home on Sunday, May 11, 2008, in Picher, Okla., after a tornado moved through the town Saturday evening. A 20-block area was destroyed in Picher.

Number of disabled US veterans rising

WASHINGTON (AP)—Increasing numbers of U.S. troops have left the military with damaged bodies and minds, an ever-larger pool of disabled veterans that will cost the nation billions for decades to come—even as the total population of America's vets shrinks.

Despite the decline in total vets—as soldiers from World War II and Korea die—the government expects to be spending \$59 billion a year to compensate injured warriors in 25 years, up from today's \$29 billion, according to internal documents obtained by The Associated Press. And the Veterans Affairs Department concedes the bill could be much higher.

Why?

Worse wounds. More disabilities. More vets aware of the benefits and quicker to file for them.

Also, ironically, advanced medical care. Troops come home with devastating injuries

that might well have killed them in earlier wars.

Time is also a factor when it comes to disability compensation costs. Payments tend to go up as veterans age, and an

increasing number of soldiers from the Vietnam War will be getting bigger payments as they get older and are less able to work around their disabilities.

The number of disabled vet-

erans has jumped by 25 percent since 2001—to 2.9 million—and the cause really is no mystery.

"This is a cost of war," says Steve Smithson, a deputy director at the American Legion. "We're still producing veterans. We've been in a war in Iraq for five years now, and the war on terror since 9/11."

VA and Census Bureau figures show the previous six-year period, before hostilities in Afghanistan and Iraq, saw a more modest increase of 4 percent in the number of disabled vets. Veterans can make claims for disability benefits long after their military service has ended.

Today's veterans—disabled or not—number nearly 24 million. That population is projected by the VA to fall under 15 million by 2033, mostly because of dying World War II and Korean War vets. But costs are expected to rise.



In this Nov. 8, 2007 file photo, wounded soldiers involved in physical therapy wait for President Bush to visit a physical therapy lab for wounded soldiers at the Center For The Intrepid at the Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio.

Families will make case for vaccine link to autism

WASHINGTON (AP)—Families claiming that a mercury-based preservative in vaccines triggers autism will challenge mainstream medicine Monday as they take their case to a federal court.

They seek vindication and financial redress from a government fund that helps people injured by shots.

Two 10-year-old boys from Portland, Ore., will serve as the test cases that determine whether the children and their families should be compensated. Attorneys for the boys will attempt to show the boys were happy, healthy and developing normally. But, after being exposed to vaccines with thimerosal, they began to regress and show symptoms of autism.

Thimerosal has been re-

moved in recent years from standard childhood vaccines, except flu vaccines that are not packaged in single-doses. The CDC says single-dose flu shots currently are available only in limited quantities. In 2004, a committee with the Institute of Medicine concluded there was no credible evidence that vaccines containing thimerosal caused autism.

Overall, nearly 4,900 families have filed claims with the U.S. Court of Claims alleging that vaccines caused autism and other neurological problems in their children. Lawyers for the families will present three different theories of how vaccines caused autism.

The case beginning Monday focuses on the second of those

theories: that thimerosal-containing vaccines alone cause autism. Lawyers for the petitioning families said they will present evidence that injections with thimerosal deposit a form of mercury in the brain. That mercury excites certain brain cells that stay chronically activated trying to get rid of the intrusion.

"In some kids, there's enough of it that it sets off this chronic neuroinflammatory pattern that can lead to regressive autism," said attorney Mike Williams.

In the end, the families' attorneys hope to convince a special master of the U.S. Court of Claims that thimerosal belongs on the list of causes for the inflammation that leads to regres-

sive autism.

To win, the attorneys for the two boys, William Mead and Jordan King, will have to show that it's more likely than not that the vaccine actually caused the injury.

Many members of the medical community are skeptical of the families' claims. They worry that the claims about the dangers of vaccines could cause some people to forgo vaccines that prevent illness.

"I think that what's so endearing to me about the anti-vaccine people is they're perfectly willing to go from one hypothesis to the next without a backward glance," said Dr. Paul Offit, director of the Vaccine Education Center at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

town to help out Saturday night when he heard a woman screaming. He looked over to see her hand reaching out of debris.

"She was sitting in the bathtub, she had curlers in her hair and she wanted out of there," said Keheley, who along with several others pulled her out.

The same storm system then moved into southwestern Missouri, where tornadoes killed at least 14 people. The system moved eastward; on Sunday, storms in Georgia killed at least one person.

"The federal government will be moving hard to help," President Bush said. "I'll be in touch with the governors and offer all of the federal assistance we can."

In Seneca, Mo., about 20 miles southeast of Picher near the Oklahoma state line, crews on Sunday combed farm fields looking for bodies and sur-

vivors. Ten of the dead were killed when a twister struck near Seneca.

Nineteen people were hospitalized in Newton County, which includes Seneca, said Keith Stammer, acting spokesman the county emergency operations. He did not know the extent of their injuries.

Susie Stonner, a Missouri emergency management spokeswoman, said it was unclear how many homes were damaged or destroyed. But she said Newton County officials had initial estimates of 50 homes damaged or destroyed there.

Jane Lant was sorting through the debris of her bridal shop about 10 miles north of Seneca. A body wrapped in blue tarp lay next to the shop. Her husband's feed store and a home across the road were also destroyed.

Lant said they were thankful the store had closed an hour before the twister hit.

"We would have had people in here at 6 when it hit," she said.

Gas prices ratchet up bicycle sales, repair into higher gear

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP)—Four-dollar-a-gallon gas is good for business—if you run a bike shop. Commuters around the country are dusting off their old two-wheelers—or buying new ones—to cope with rising fuel prices, bicycle dealers say.

"Everyone that comes in the shop is talking about the gas prices," said Barry Dahl, who opened Barry's Bikes in Bismarck in April. He sold more than 50 bicycles in the first month, double the projections in his business plan.

Teacher Joyce McCusker of Herndon, Va., owns a bicycle for the first time in years. She bought it last month and uses it to make the eight-mile trip home from work. A friend drives her pickup to take McCusker's daughter home from school.

"I'm still using fossil fuel," she said. "In two years, my goal is to ride both ways, every day through the year."

About 18 million bicycles have been sold annually in the U.S. over the past few years, accounting for about \$6 billion in annual sales, said Fred Clements, executive director the National Bicycle Dealers Association in Costa Mesa, Calif.

Bicycle shops across the country are reporting strong sales so far this year, and more people are bringing in bikes that have been idled for years, he said.

"People are riding bicycles a lot more often, and it's due to a mixture of things but escalating gas prices is one of them," said Bill Nesper, spokesman for the Washington, D.C.-based League of American Bicyclists.

Clinton spends Mother's Day campaigning in West Virginia



GRAFTON, W. Va. (AP)—Hillary Rodham

Clinton toured the birthplace of Mother's Day in rural West Virginia, offering Democrats a subtle reminder Sunday that her fading candidacy remains strong among women and blue-collar, white voters.

That loyal base is expected to carry Clinton to a sizable victory in the primary on Tuesday, though it won't do much to close the gap between her and Barack Obama, her rival for the Democratic presidential nomination. Clinton's lingering candidacy high-

lights not just her strengths but also how difficult it has been for Obama to make inroads among some key Democratic constituencies.

Clinton made a brief afternoon visit to the home of Anna Jarvis, who is credited with founding Mother's Day 100 years ago. Clinton spoke to reporters afterward and told stories about women who have changed history by pressing for equal rights and breaking into male-dominated careers.

She highlighted her own mother's working-class upbringing and quoted from letters she said mothers have written her recently.



Clinton

Asia



U.S. Marine based in Guam, Aerial Porter MSgt. Todd Kneisley, of Defiance, Ohio, front, helps crewmen load a C-130 cargo plane with supplies bound for cyclone devastated Myanmar in Utapao Air Base near the southern city of Rayong, Thailand, Monday, May 12, 2008.

DEATH TOLL CLIMBS BEYOND 28,000

Boat carrying aid for Myanmar sinks

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—A Red Cross boat carrying rice and drinking water for cyclone victims sank Sunday, while the death toll jumped to more than 28,000 and aid groups warned of a humanitarian catastrophe.

The boat was carrying supplies for more than 1,000 people and was the first Red Cross shipment to the disaster area, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies said. All four relief workers on board were safe, it said.

“This is a great loss for the Myanmar Red Cross and for the people who need aid so urgently,” said Aung Kyaw Htut, the distribution team leader of the Myanmar Red Cross.

The sinking was the latest setback for distribution of aid following Cyclone Nargis. Though

international aid has started to trickle in, almost all foreign relief workers have been barred entry into the isolated nation. The junta says it wants to hand out all donated supplies on its own.

The boat was making the 12-hour journey from Yangon to Mawlamyinegyun when it hit a submerged tree trunk and began taking water near Bogalay town, which was extensively damaged by the cyclone, the IFRC said.

The boat was carrying 100 bags of rice, 1,300 gallons of drinking water, 10,000 water purification tablets, 30 boxes of clothes and other goods. The organization said it was unable to say how much of the cargo has been lost. But it said the food supplies saved were contaminated by river water.

The International Federa-

tion’s disaster manager in Yangon, Michael Annear, described the sinking as “a big blow.”

“Apart from the delay in getting aid to people we may now have to re-evaluate how we transport that aid,” he said.

Also Sunday, Myanmar’s state television said that the cyclone’s death toll has gone up by about 5,000 to 28,458. The number of missing was reduced to 33,416. International aid groups, however, say that the death toll could eventually top 100,000 as humanitarian conditions worsen.

British aid group Oxfam said Sunday that the death toll could multiply by up to 15 times, or rise to 1.5 million, if people do not get clean water and sanitation soon, which could result in a medical catastrophe.

“It’s really crucial that people get access to clean water sources and sanitation to avoid unnecessary deaths and suffering,” Oxfam regional chief Sarah Ireland told reporters in Bangkok, Thailand.

The government has refused to let in most foreign experts who have experience in handling humanitarian disasters. It insists it is capable of distributing the aid being pledged by international donors. Meanwhile, aid is piling up in foreign countries, awaiting approval from the junta.

The country’s main airport in Yangon is also incapable of handling more than five flights a day, when it should be taking in at least one every hour, said PLAN, a London-based children’s aid group.

Bloated bodies litter Myanmar

ON THE PYAPON RIVER, Myanmar (AP)—As the bloated bodies rise and fall with the current, women scrub clothes along the river bank, villagers bathe to cool themselves and a lone child sits on a dock staring aimlessly into the water.

But with little aid getting through to desperate cyclone survivors, the dead have largely been forgotten—left to decay where the brackish waters carried them or waiting to be pulled out to sea by the rising tides.

“The first few we saw, we were all very shocked,” said U Pinyatale, a monk from the area who has prayed for the dead. “After a while, there were just too many.”

More than 50 bodies can be spotted in just three hours on the river. Many have turned white as they float entwined in mangrove trees, where they remain lodged. The smell of dead fish permeates the humid air as dozens of small boats ferrying roofing supplies and rice navigate around the corpses, but no one seems to notice.

“In some areas there are 5,000 bodies in waterways, stuck in fields and in the trees,” said Craig Strathern, spokesman for the International Committee of the Red Cross in Yangon, Myanmar’s biggest city. “We’ve got a combination of seriously traumatized people themselves who are concentrating on their basic survival.”

Cyclone Nargis left nearly 62,000 people dead or missing. The U.N. estimates at least 1.5 million have been severely affected in the military-run country, with many of them still struggling to receive rations of food and clean water.

Body removal remains difficult because some of the worst-hit areas are located in remote villages crisscrossed by a spider web of rivers and canals. Another big setback revolves around the ruling junta’s refusal to open the door to international aid workers, forcing agencies operating in Myanmar to rely on their limited local staff members for all relief work.

The situation differs greatly from the 2004 Asian tsunami, which killed nearly 230,000 people. In worst-hit Banda Aceh, Indonesia, bodies were a top priority early on, driven largely by Muslim tradition that calls for burying the dead within the first day. Corpses were dumped in mass graves as big as football fields, with aid workers, soldiers and volunteers all working together.



A villager sails at the river in Pyapon, a town in the Irrawaddy delta of Myanmar, on Sunday, May 11, 2008, a week after devastating cyclone Nargis slammed into the low-lying region and Yangon.

ASIAN BRIEFS

6 killed in clashes in Indian Kashmir

SRINAGAR, India (AP)—Indian forces and suspected Islamic militants clashed Sunday in two separate incidents in Indian-controlled Kashmir, killing six people, including two civilians and a news photographer, the army said. A soldier and two gunmen were also killed in the fighting, and one of the gunbattles continued to rage hours later with six suspected militants holed up in a house, Indian army spokesman Lt. Col. S.D. Goswami said. In the first clash, soldiers confronted a group of gunmen who had apparently infiltrated into the area from across the de facto border with Pakistan, Goswami said.

Chinese man held for threatening on Internet to grab torch

BEIJING (AP)—A Chinese man was arrested for saying on the Internet that he planned to grab the Olympic torch during its relay through eastern China, police said Sunday. The 28-year-old man, identified only as Tang, was detained in Zhenjiang

in Jiangsu province in eastern China for allegedly spreading rumors online and disturbing public order, said an official in the local public security bureau who would give only his surname, Zhang. Tang was detained on May 7 and will be held for 10 days, Zhang said. Tang is accused of writing in an Internet chat room that he wanted to organize a group to grab the torch when it arrives in Nanjing, near Zhenjiang, on May 24, state media and police said.

Nepal police detain more than 600 female Tibetan protesters

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP)—Police detained more than 600 female Tibetan protesters, including many Buddhist nuns, on Sunday after breaking up several demonstrations against China’s recent crackdown in Tibet. It was the largest number of protesters detained on a single day since Tibetan exiles began almost daily protests in March against Chinese policies in Tibet and the first time that only women demonstrated. The protesters held three separate rallies in Katmandu but were quickly stopped by police. More than 600

protesters were being held in detention centers in Katmandu, said police official R.P. Dhamala. The first group was stopped even before they could enter a street from an open area where they had gathered.

MILF blame ARROYO for stalled talks

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Muslim guerrillas said Sunday they’re ready for war and accused the Philippine government of abandoning Malaysian-brokered peace talks by refusing to honor earlier accords. Malaysia has complained about a lack of progress in the talks it has brokered between the two sides and withdrew 28 of its cease-fire monitors from the south Saturday in the first serious fallout from the impasse. U.S. and Philippine officials hope a peace pact between the Manila government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, which has an estimated 11,000 fighters, can transform parts of the south into flourishing economic hubs instead of battlefields and safe harbors for al-Qaida-linked militants. The talks hit a snag in

December when rebel negotiators walked out to protest government insistence that earlier piecemeal agreements by both sides in more than three years of negotiations should conform with the Philippine Constitution.

Pakistan leaders fail to reach accord on restoring judges

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)—Pakistani leaders failed Sunday to reach a deal on restoring judges sacked by President Pervez Musharraf, increasing the likelihood the ruling coalition could shatter after just six weeks in power and plunge the country back into political turmoil. Negotiators from the two main ruling parties held talks in London throughout the weekend, ahead of a self-imposed Monday deadline to resolve the issue. But officials said Sunday night they were heading back to Pakistan without a deal. Representatives of the junior party, that of ex-Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, said members would meet Monday to consider whether to stay in the coalition. The party has already threatened to quit the Cabinet.

World

Lebanese violence spreads outside capital

Smoke rises from buildings as Shiite gunmen fire rockets during clashes between pro-government supporters of Druze leader Walid Jumblatt and Shiite gunmen and their allies in Choueifat south of Beirut, Lebanon, Sunday, May 11, 2008.

AP



BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP)—Lebanon hung between fears of all-out war and hopes of political compromise Sunday as government supporters and opponents battled with rockets and machine guns in the mountains overlooking the capital.

The fighting saw the collapse of pro-government forces in the Aley region, a stronghold of anti-Syrian Druze leader Walid Jumblatt.

Beirut was quiet a day after Hezbollah gunmen left the streets, heeding an army call for the Shiite fighters to clear out. The city was the focus of four days of Sunni-Shiite clashes that culminated with Hezbollah seizing large swaths of Muslim West Beirut—demonstrating its military might in a showdown with the government.

Thirty-eight people have been killed since Wednesday, when a power struggle between the Hezbollah-led opposition and the U.S.-backed government began erupting into the worst sectarian violence since Lebanon's 1975-1990 civil war.

Across the country, there were fears of another slide into civil war.

"I don't believe this is the end," said Hala, a 32-year-old employee of an insurance company who lives in a posh area of the Muslim sector that saw fighting three days ago. She declined to give her name for fear of retaliation.

"They haven't solved the problem yet," she added. "There will be another round."

But some analysts saw Hezbollah's demonstration of its power as paving the way for a solution to end the political crisis. Analysts said the opposition now appears to have the upper hand, which could force the government to compromise.

"The opposition is in control now. These military victories have to be translated politically," said Amal Saad Ghorayeb, a political science professor who is an expert on Hezbollah.

"You can't have a civil war when there is one group that is militarily superior to the others," she said, referring to Hezbollah.

Iran looks to tap key oil field with homegrown crews

AZADEGAN OIL FIELD, Iran (AP)—At this huge oil field in southwest Iran, one building stands out among the pumps and maze of pipelines: On its roof in giant letters, big enough for satellites or pilots to see, are the words: "We can do it."

The slogan, made famous by Iran's revolutionary leader, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, highlights the country's new drive to tap its oil riches on its own—without Western investment or technological know-how—as Iran faces a threat of tighter U.N. sanctions and American financial pressure over its nuclear ambitions.

The Azadegan field in southwestern Iran showcases the bid: the first major field to be developed solely by Iranian companies. Pumping began in February in the vast oil basin—off limits to the public, but The Associated Press received permission to tour the site recently with a government escort.

The self-sufficiency drive has become a vital test of how well Iran can ride out more Western sanctions—and possibly rake in billions of dollars more in oil revenues as prices hit record highs. It also is shaping up as a political gamble for hard-line President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, the main proponent of using local firms.

Docs: Chavez helped Colombia insurgents

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)—Documents that Colombia says it recovered from a slain guerrilla leader give the clearest indication yet that Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez sought to arm and finance insurgents across the border.

The documents—more than a dozen internal rebel messages—detail several years of close cooperation between top officials in Venezuela's government and military and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, including the construction of rebel training facilities on Venezuelan soil.

They also suggest Venezuela was preparing to loan the rebels at least US\$250 million (euro190 million), provide them with Russian weapons and possibly even help them obtain surface-to-air missiles for use against Colombian military aircraft.

Most importantly, they outline a joint strategic project between Venezuela and the Colombian rebels, with Venezuela even seeking rebel training in "asymmetrical warfare" in preparation for a feared U.S. invasion.

The documents were shown to The Associated Press on Friday, days before Interpol is to issue a report that Colombia's conservative government hopes will dispel any doubts about the documents' authenticity.

A U.S. intelligence official in Washington vouched for the documents' authenticity, telling the AP that the Bush administration received them in March. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because of the matter's sensitivity.

But the leftist Chavez calls the documents fakes. He denies arming or funding the FARC, though he openly sympathizes with Latin America's most powerful rebel army. He calls Colombia's government, Washington's closest ally in the region, a U.S. pawn.

"They can get whatever they want out of there," Chavez said Sunday during his weekly television and radio program, referring to the slain rebel's computers and suggesting that U.S. officials are fabricating documents to support their accusations. "It's an imperialist plan."

The newly disclosed files are among 11,000 that Colombian officials say they found in three laptops, two external drives and three memory sticks during a March 1 cross-border raid into Ecuador that killed FARC foreign minister Raul Reyes and 24 others.

Immediately after the raid, Colombia released documents that suggested surprisingly cozy ties between the FARC and the leftist governments of both Venezuela and Ecuador. It has since disclosed more files piecemeal, drawing criticism that its handling of the cache has been political.

11 dead in Haiti ferry capsizing

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—U.N. and Haitian authorities say an overloaded ferry has sunk off the Caribbean country's southern coast, killing at least 11 people.

U.N. peacekeeping mission

spokesman David Wimhurst says most of the 100 people aboard the crowded ferry were able to swim to safety. The boat sank after taking on water about 150 yards (150 meters) from shore late Saturday.

Haitian authorities said Sunday

that crews recovered 11 bodies from the water and at least five of them were children.

The vessel was carrying passengers, food and charcoal on a two-day voyage to the capital of Port-au-Prince.

Sudan cuts ties with Chad, curfew lifted

KHARTOUM, Sudan (AP)—Sudan severed ties with Chad Sunday, accusing its neighbor of backing a rebel assault on the capital and raising the possibility of new border clashes that could worsen Darfur's humanitarian crisis.

A curfew was lifted in Sudan's capital but residents hunkered inside and security remained tight a day after the government repulsed an unprecedented assault on Khartoum by Darfur rebels.

In the capital's twin city of

Omdurman, frightened residents emerged slowly to find buildings pockmarked with bullet holes and streets littered with charred cars. Women draped in flowered gowns stepped around huge armored personnel carriers, inspecting the damage. The city's main market was closed and residents milled around on side streets, staying off main roads lined with checkpoints.

"We were worried at first, that Khartoum may again be unsafe," said Hatem, a 45-year-old

Omdurman resident who would not give his last name, fearing government reprisal. "We are extremely cautious."

"Police are searching for rebels on the run and are pestering us for IDs," he said.

A curfew was lifted in Khartoum but not in Omdurman, where police told state media that more than 300 rebels were arrested and many more had tossed away their camouflage uniforms to blend in with urban civilians.



AP

Security forces observe a burned-out truck in Khartoum's twin city of Omdurman, the scene of a rebel assault Saturday night, in Sudan Sunday, May 11, 2008.

Overdrive



Traffic travels on the New York State Thruway in Selkirk, N.Y., Friday, May 2, 2008.

As fuel prices rise, speedometer needles fall

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP)—As other cars zipped by at 70 mph or more, Mike Papin and his wife, Joann, kept rolling along just below the 65 mph limit as they made their way from their winter home in Florida to a summer place in Vermont.

They've typically done six or seven miles above the speed limit during the annual migration, but with gasoline prices roaring toward \$4 a gallon nationally, Joann suggested they ease off the pedal during the 1,500-mile drive this year.

"I read somewhere that around 62 or 63 was the best speed to drive to make the most of your gas," she said.

Drivers have known for years that throttling back is a sure way to improve gas mileage, and the Papins are among those who are consciously slowing down to save. Several airlines have adopted the same tactic, adding a few minutes to flights to save millions on fuel.

But most drivers still appear to be winking at posted speed limits because they say their time is worth more than the gas they'd save by slowing down.

Kelley Goodman, an upstate New York therapist, says gas prices haven't yet gone high enough to justify slowing down.

"I know it could save some

money and I really should. But I'm always running late," Goodman said as she pumped \$3.80-a-gallon regular unleaded into her Honda Accord.

Researchers say today's cars are most fuel efficient at speeds between around 30 and 60 mph, and mileage drops sharply at speeds above 65 as engines work harder to overcome wind resistance that rises exponentially. If drivers were forced to slow down—and lower speed limits were enforced—the thirst for fuel could be significantly reduced, which could ease prices.

Recent surveys show that many drivers have changed their habits to cut fuel costs, but the changes tend to be ones that bring immediate gratification—such as using the Internet to find stations with the lowest prices and putting less gas in the tank instead of filling up, said Larry Compeau, executive officer of the Society for Consumer Psychology and an associate marketing professor at Clarkson University.

"If you buy a more fuel-efficient car or find cheaper gasoline, those things are right in front of you," Compeau said. "Whether you do 65 or 55 is much more nebulous. There's no way for you to immediately see the impact."

Based on recent highway traffic volume trends, throttling

back to 60 mph from 70 mph would likely reduce gasoline usage between 2 percent and 3 percent, which is about what happened when the 55-mph limit was imposed in the 1970s, said David Greene, a senior researcher at the U.S. Energy Department's Oak Ridge National Lab.

"We're talking about a 2-to-3 percent reduction in demand, which would mean a much larger percentage reduction in price, maybe 10 percent," Greene said.

Tom Kloza of the Oil Price Information Service in Wall, N.J., agreed that a 2-to-3 percent cut in demand likely would reduce prices. But, he notes, in past years price spikes were usually linked to refinery shortages while this surge has been tied more directly to crude oil prices.

"I don't think there's a particular downside to conservation, but that doesn't mean that if we cut back on our gas consumption, that the price of crude oil worldwide is going to drop," he said.

The idea of slowing down to save fuel isn't new. President Richard Nixon and Congress imposed a national speed limit of 55 mph in 1974 during the Middle East oil embargo against the U.S. Prices at the pump quadrupled from about a quarter to more than a dollar in places, and long gas lines were

a common sight.

States later were allowed to set 65-mph limits on rural interstates.

Congress repealed the national speed limit law in 1995, and today 32 states have limits of 70 mph or higher on some parts of their highways, according to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety. Texas already has an 80-mph limit on some roads and Utah's legislature has voted to raise the limit to 80 on part of one interstate.

At least two states—Alabama and Connecticut—have considered reducing speed limits, but those efforts haven't gained much traction. And despite the benefits, there seems to be little appetite in Congress for a new national speed limit.

"We haven't been able to find anyone to champion it," said Clayton Boyce of the American Trucking Association, which is advocating for a 65 mph national speed limit.

Some truckers are slowing down anyway as the average price of diesel heads toward \$4.50 a gallon.

"I'm saving between \$100 and \$200 a week by cutting back from 72-73 mph to 60-65 mph," said Dennis Sheridan, who owns an 18-wheeler and hauls freight on a contract basis

throughout the Northeast.

Sheridan is an owner-operator, paying for his own fuel and other expenses and getting paid for each load delivered. And so far, slowing down hasn't hindered his ability to make deliveries on time.

"If you're going from say, New York to California, you might lose an hour over the run," he said. "But on the East Coast, what are you going to lose, 10 minutes? You know as soon as you step on it you're going to hit traffic anyway."

Drivers who work for a trucking company have no incentive to slow down because the companies cover fuel and other costs and pay the drivers by the mile. The more they drive, the more they earn.

"I haven't slowed down at all," said Earl Wood, a regional driver for Allen's Foods, a Seaford, Del.-based food production and distribution company that specializes in poultry. "It's not worth it to me."

Other company drivers have no choice but to slow down. Boyce says many of the trade group's members have dialed back the maximum speed on their rigs to save money on diesel.

Con-Way Freight of Ann Ar-

bor, Mich., is one of them. The company in January lowered the top governed speed of its 8,400 tractors to 62 from 65 mph.

The relatively small reduction will save roughly 3.2 million gallons of diesel fuel annually—about \$13.3 million worth at today's prices—while increasing the time it takes to move freight between cities within the company's delivery regions by about 20-30 minutes, said Con-Way spokesman Gary Frantz.

"We found that it will have very little impact on our operations," he said.

While Con-Way has voluntarily cut back its trucks' speed, some states have considered the idea of mandating lower speeds for all vehicles.

Last year, Connecticut State Sen. Thomas Gaffey introduced a bill that would lower the maximum speed limit there to 60 mph from 65 mph, but it died in committee.

State Rep. Thad McClammy of Alabama—which has a maximum speed limit of 70 mph—this year proposed a measure that would enable his state to easily ratchet down speed limits when fuel prices are high and raise them when prices are low.

CRUISIN'



Chevy Bel Air

By GREG ZYLA
(C) 2008 KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

Q: Greg, was there ever a 1954 Chevy Bel Air Club Coupe? I own a '48 Chevy Coupe, a '51 Club Coupe and a '53 210 Club Coupe. What would they be worth today? Also, my brother has a '53 Chevy 210 two-door sedan. It has been in the family since day one and is in mint condition. — William W., Pottsville, Pa.

A: William, you and your brother have some really nice Chevy models in your possession. As for the 1954 Bel Air Club Coupe, it was officially called a Sport Coupe in its first "stand-alone" model year of 1953, and again in 1954. The Club Coupe badge came in Chevy series 150 and 210 models, but not the Bel Air models. Bel Airs, however, first appeared in 1951 and 1952 as part of the Chevrolet's Styleline Deluxe series, but not under Club Coupe designation.

Here is the pricing for your cars (all rated in good condition) based on current book values: \$6,125 for the '48 coupe; \$5,500 for the '51 Coupe; \$6,450 for the '53 Club Coupe model; and \$6,175 to a mint of \$13,500 for your brother's '53 210 two-door sedan.

Remember, what a book guide states a car is worth and what someone actually pays for it are often two completely different numbers. Thanks for your letter, and good luck with your Chevys!

Write to Greg Zyla in care of King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or send e-mail to gzyla@ptd.net.

Life & Style

President calls Jenna's wedding 'spectacular'

WACO, Texas (AP)—President Bush spent months joking about being a father of the bride, but on Sunday he was downright wistful about giving his daughter Jenna away to her longtime beau.

"Our little girl, Jenna, married a really good guy, Henry Hager," Bush said, standing next Mrs. Bush at an airport in Waco where he boarded Air Force One for his flight back to Washington. "The wedding was spectacular. It's just—it's all we could have hoped for."

Unlike other first family weddings that have been broadcast live, the Bushes didn't share their daughter's nuptials with the nation. The day after, however, they briefly shared their joy.

"The weather cooperated nicely," Bush said about the wedding at his 1,600-acre Texas ranch. "Just as the vows were exchanged, the sun set over our lake and it was just a special day and a wonderful day and we're mighty blessed."

A reporter asked the president if he had been up late partying. Bush winked, then turned toward the plane, ignoring a second question about whether the wedding had given the slumping U.S. economy a boost.

In recent days, the White House has dribbled out details about the bride's dress, the ring, the wedding attire and pre-wedding events. It was part of a carefully orchestrated communications strategy to disclose bits of information, but keep the wedding from becoming a media circus.

But it wasn't a complete media blackout. On Sunday, while it disclosed no more details, the White House released 11 photos of the affair at Bush's Prairie Chapel Ranch.

Former President George H.W. Bush, who did a reading

during the ceremony with former first lady Barbara Bush, moseyed back to the press section of the plane, but wouldn't dish. He said he dutifully replied "Yes sir!" when he was told not to disclose details.

A White House official confirmed by e-mail at 9:28 p.m. EDT Saturday that Jenna and Henry, the son of the chairman of the Republican Party in Virginia, had been officially hitched.

The post-wedding party ensued. The more than 200 family and friends were entertained by the Tyrone Smith Revue, a 10-piece party band from Nashville, Tenn. The musicians gave the newlyweds what Smith described as a "get down" party.

At Tricia Nixon's White House wedding in 1971, President Nixon and his daughter danced to "Thank Heaven for Little Girls." Bush and Jenna glided across the dance floor to "You are so Beautiful"—a ballad made famous by Joe Cocker. The newlyweds danced to "Lovin' in My Baby's Eyes" by Taj Mahal.

The bride and groom were reared in Republican families, but this was a bipartisan ceremony.

Officiating was the Rev. Kirbyjon Caldwell, an influential minister from Houston and longtime spiritual adviser to the president, has endorsed Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama.

But while the wedding is now a part of presidential history, it was not a night for politics or publicity.

Millie Martin Bratten, editor-in-chief of BRIDES magazine, said the wedding was a letdown for some who craved a Princess Diana-style event. But she said Jenna's wedding—her classy Oscar de la Renta gown and all—might even set a trend for future presidential weddings.



The daughter of President Bush and first lady Laura Bush, Jenna, celebrates with her new husband, Henry Hager, following their marriage at the Bush family's Prairie Chapel Ranch in Crawford, Texas, Saturday, May 10, 2008.

Bratten foresees future first family weddings that mix protocol and formality with creative individual touches from the bride.

"Instead of the event being turned over to the White House social secretary who follows the strict rules of protocol—something that comes from our British heritage of royal weddings—this one had a lot of input from her," Bratten said.

As the nuptials drew near on Saturday, tour buses loaded with wedding guests began rolling through downtown Crawford, past souvenir stores that earlier in the day had sold out of Jenna and Henry coffee mugs and mouse pads. An 18-foot rusty metal sculpture of an angel, a gift to the town after Bush's re-election,

was adorned with a white veil and bouquet of white flowers. Plastic geese ornaments on a lawn were dressed up with white

knit hats and draped in tulle.

Unable to get close to the ranch, visitors settled for snapping photos of the Prairie Chapel Road sign.

Wedding events were so closely held that even the chef who prepared the rehearsal dinner Friday night in a nearby town didn't find out he was working on the first daughter's wedding until late Thursday night.

"It's pretty amazing how they kept it quiet," said Dave Hermann, who with his wife, Katie, own The Range Restaurant at the Barton House in Salado, about an hour's drive from Crawford. In a phone interview, Hermann said the groom's mother, Margaret Chase Hager, used an alias when she called to arrange the event. "Quite honestly, there may have been a handful of people who knew something, but not very early on."

For the rehearsal dinner, Hermann served lemon-crusted rainbow trout and grilled pork tenderloin over roasted corn pudding. It was the groom's 30th birthday, so he also served a lemony, vanilla cake.

"Lots of people gave toasts," he said. "Henry shared some funny stories about dating Jenna and said something about how

he couldn't wait to be the son" the Bushes never had.

Afterward, the rehearsal dinner crowd went to a "Texas-sized" celebration down the street. They were escorted by a high school marching band from Belton, Texas, which played "Happy Birthday" and "The Eyes of Texas are Upon You," Hermann said. Reporters never saw or heard the noisy procession.

"I know the president and I know the family and I think they pulled it off," Doug Wead, a former aide to President George H.W. Bush and author of a book on presidents' kin. "What I mean when I say 'pulled it off' is that they were successful in keeping it a private event."

Many questions remain unanswered: Did the couple write their own vows? Will Jenna take her husband's name? Are they really going to Europe for their honeymoon? When is Barbara Bush getting married?

If the Bush twins follow the lead of President Woodrow Wilson's daughters, Barbara will tie the knot quickly. In 1913, Jessie Wilson was married on Nov. 25—the twins' birthday. Her sister, Eleanor Wilson, got hitched a few months later on May 7, 1914.



President George W. Bush and first lady Laura Bush, left, pose for a family photo following the marriage of their daughter Jenna and Henry Hager, center, at the Bush family's Prairie Chapel Ranch in Crawford, Texas, Saturday, May 10, 2008. At right are John and Maggie Hager, parents of the groom.

Our Most Sincere Appreciation



We, the family, of the late

†Brandon Jermaine Lizama Cruz

would like to extend our deepest gratitude and appreciation to all our families and friends for the support, prayers and personal help extended to us during our time of sorrow, for your presence at the nightly rosaries and at the day of the funeral.

Un Dangkulo Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase ginen I Korason-mame

**Mr. & Mrs. Peter Q. Cruz, Jr.
& Family**



This image released by Warner Bros. Entertainment shows actors Emile Hirsch, left, as Speed Racer and Christina Ricci as Trixie in a scene from the action adventure "Speed Racer."

'Speed Racer' gets passed in its debut

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Speed Racer" was lapped in its opening weekend at the box office as "Iron Man" continued to fire its jets with \$50.5 million in ticket sales, according to studio estimates Sunday.

The anime-inspired race movie edged into the No. 2 spot with \$20.2 million, slightly ahead of the 20th Century Fox comedy "What Happens in Vegas," which debuted at \$20 million.

"Our tracking was stalled toward the end," said Dan Fellman, president of Warner Bros. theatrical distribution, about market surveys before the "Speed Racer" opening.

Fellman added "Speed Racer" would have difficulty recouping its \$120 million budget.

"Unfortunately it didn't perform to our expectations," he said.

"Speed Racer" was panned by many film critics and was made by the Wachowski brothers, best known for the "Matrix" franchise.

"What Happens in Vegas," a romantic comedy that cost \$35 million and stars Cameron Diaz and Ashton Kutcher, shot

1. "Iron Man," \$50.5 million.
2. "Speed Racer," \$20.2 million.
3. "What Happens in Vegas," \$20 million.
4. "Made of Honor," \$7.6 million.
5. "Baby Mama," \$5.8 million.
6. "Forgetting Sarah Marshall," \$3.8 million.
7. "Harold & Kumar Escape from Guantanamo Bay," \$3.2 million.
8. "The Forbidden Kingdom," \$1.9 million.
9. "Nim's Island," \$1.3 million.
10. "Redbelt," \$1.1 million.

the gap between the action flicks, said Chris Aronson, senior vice president at 20th Century Fox.

"We were sandwiched between the comic book movie of 'Iron Man' and 'Speed Racer,'" Aronson said. "We come along with a character-driven movie in what is now considered summer and it's just a great result."

Revenue for Marvel Studios' "Iron Man" slipped just 49 percent in its second week in theaters, a respectable showing consider-

ing its massive opening, said Paul Dergarabedian, president of tracking firm Media By Numbers LLC.

"'Iron Man' is basically pulling everybody's audience. It's really dominating the marketplace," he said.

Five of the top 10 grossing movies were comedies, including Sony Pictures' Patrick Dempsey-led film, "Made of Honor," which took in \$7.6 million in its second week, for fourth place.

The weekend's total domestic box office gross hit \$128 million, up 21 percent from last year. But year-to-date revenue was still down 2.5 percent at \$2.93 billion, while attendance was off 5.3 percent.

Over the next few weeks, several big movies will take a shot at knocking "Iron Man" off its perch, starting with "The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian," opening May 16, and "Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull" on May 22.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Media By Numbers LLC. Final figures will be released Monday.

'Survivor: Fans vs. Favorites' winner, Shallow, is crowned

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Parvati Shallow was the last woman standing on "Survivor: Micronesia—Fans vs. Favorites."

The 25-year-old boxer and charity organizer from Los Angeles outwitted, outlasted and outplayed her competitors - both "favorite" former castaways and "fan" contestants - to claim the title of "Sole Survivor" and the CBS reality show's \$1 million prize during Sunday's live finale. She previously came in sixth place on "Survivor: Cook Islands."

Shallow received five votes over three for runner-up Amanda Kimmel, the 23-year-old former beauty queen and aspiring fashion designer. She also bested 37-year-old nurse Cirie Fields and 32-year-old bartender Natalie Bolton. It marked the first time in the reality competition's 16-season history that four female contestants made it to the end of the game.

"I couldn't have done it without the girls that I was with," Shallow said during the finale.

At the beginning of the season, a tribe of former contestants competed against a tribe of new players. When the teams merged, Shallow helped form an alliance of female competitors from both sides. The alliance shocked several contestants with their eliminations, including Erik Reichenbach, who gave up immunity he won to Bolton and was subsequently voted out.

During the finale, Kimmel won both immunity challenges, choosing Shallow to accompany her at the final tribal council. That last deliberation featured two players vying for votes from an eight-person jury of cast-off competitors - unlike the three previous "Survivor" seasons, which featured three contestants angling for winning votes.

"The fact that it's a final two and not a final three was almost poetic," Fields said when she learned about the finale's twist. "I mean, we've been blindsiding people left and right, and essentially we got blindsided. We thought we had it made. I guess what goes around, comes around."

At the end of the finale, host Jeff Probst revealed the series will return to Africa for its 17th season and feature 18 contestants living among wildlife. "Survivor: Gabon—Earth's Last Eden" will premiere in the fall. The third "Survivor" season was filmed in Kenya.



In this photo provided by CBS Entertainment, Parvati Shallow is seen during the fourteenth episode of "Survivor: Micronesia Fans vs. Favorites." in this undated photo.

Hundreds strip for naked photo shoot in Austria

VIENNA, Austria (AP)—The man behind the camera had three requests for his subjects: no sunglasses, no smiling, and no underwear.

The latest work by New York photographer Spencer Tunick gathered 1,840 people, baring it all in Austria's Happel Stadium on Sunday.

"Stay very still. Don't move," the Austria Press Agency quoted Tunick as telling the crowd as he went to work.

Much of the hours-long photo shoot had little to do with soccer, with naked volunteers assuming different poses at the behest of the artist. But at least one of the photos had them with the ball, men first and then the women.

The stadium will host seven of the Euro 2008 soccer championship matches being staged by Austria and Switzerland, including the June 29 final.

Tunick has made a name for himself with his works featuring hundreds of naked people at unusual venues. He described Sunday's shooting on his Web site as combining "the spirit of sports, the grand sweeping waves of stadium architecture and the abstract relation of the human form to modern structures."



U.S. photographer Spencer Tunick, center, speaks to thousands of naked people at Vienna's Ernst-Happel stadium during a massive naked photo session Sunday, May 11, 2008.

Gospel singer Dottie Rambo dies in tour bus wreck in Mo.

MOUNT VERNON, Mo. (AP)—Joyce "Dottie" Rambo, an influential gospel singer and songwriter, died early Sunday when her tour bus ran off the highway and struck an embankment. She was 74.

Seven other people on the bus were injured in the wreck about two miles east of Mount Vernon on Interstate 44, the Missouri Highway Patrol said. They were hospitalized in Springfield with moderate to severe injuries, according to the patrol.

It was unclear whether the crash was related to the severe storms and tornadoes that hit the region on Saturday. Storms also swept through the area later in the night, according to the National Weather Service.

Rambo, of Nashville, Tenn., was on her way to a Mother's Day performance in Texas, according to her Web site.

"She was a giant in the gos-

pel music industry," said Beckie Simmons, Rambo's agent. "Dolly Parton recorded some of her songs."

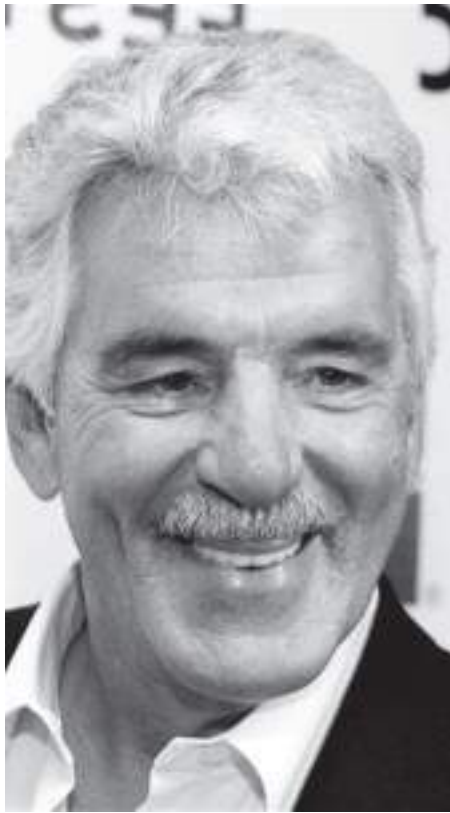
Parton sent condolences to "everyone involved in this terrible tragedy."

"I know Dottie is in heaven in the arms of God right now, but our earth angel will surely be missed," Parton said in a statement. "Dottie was a dear friend, a fellow singer, songwriter and entertainer, and as of late my duet singing partner."

Rambo was inducted into the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame last year and the Kentucky Music Hall of Fame in 2006.

Rambo has had more than 2,500 published songs, including gospel classics such as "He Looked Beyond My Fault and Saw My Need" and the 1982 Gospel Music Association Song of the Year, "We Shall Behold Him."

Farina arrested with gun in luggage



LOS ANGELES (AP)—Actor Dennis Farina was charged with a felony Sunday at Los Angeles International Airport after a loaded gun was found in his carry-on luggage.

When the weapon was discovered at a security checkpoint, the 64-year-old actor said he had forgotten the .22-caliber handgun was in his luggage, police said.

Farina was booked for investigation of carrying a concealed weapon, said Sgt. Dennis Beacham. Bail was set at \$25,000 before police discovered the weapon was not registered. Charges were then upgraded to a felony and bail was increased to \$35,000.

Farina was released after posting bail on Sunday night, according to the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Web site.

Farina's latest film, the Ashton Kutcher-Cameron Diaz comedy "What Happens in Vegas," opened Friday.

Farina has starred in TV's "Law & Order" series and in such movies as "Snatch" and "Get Shorty." The actor is also a former Chicago police officer.

Calls to Farina's lawyer and agent were not returned Sunday.

In this April 27, 2007 file photo, actor Dennis Farina arrives to the world premiere of his film "The Grand", at the Tribeca Film Festival in New York. AP

Vanessa Williams receives diploma from Syracuse U.

SYRACUSE, N.Y. (AP)—Vanessa Williams has received her bachelor of fine arts degree from Syracuse University, nearly 25 years after she dropped out to become the first black Miss America.

The 45-year-old actress-singer, who stars in ABC's "Ugly Betty," also delivered the convocation address Saturday to graduates of Syracuse's College of Visual and Performing Arts.

She encouraged her fellow graduates to "treasure this moment." "These days are irreplaceable and are the beginning of the rest of your life," she said, according to the Web Site of The Syracuse Post-Standard.

When she accepted her diploma, Williams raised it to show her mother and children.

Williams attended Syracuse's drama department as a musical theater major from 1981-1983. She earned the remaining credits for her degree through industry experience and performances on stage and screen.

She became the first black Miss America in 1983, but surrendered the title in July 1984 after Penthouse magazine pub-



In this March 6, 2008 file photo, Vanessa Williams is shown arriving at the "Hollywood Glam with Rebecca Romijn" party in Beverly Hills, Calif. AP

lished nude, sexually explicit photographs of her taken several years earlier.

Over her career, Williams has sold more than 4 million albums, won critical praise for her performances on Broadway, made dozens of TV appearances

and starred in several movies.

She has won a Tony, received two NAACP Image Awards and nine Grammy nominations.

In 1996, Williams received the George Arents Pioneer Medal, the university's most prestigious alumni award.

Jennie Garth returning to West Beverly for '90210' spinoff

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The wild kids of television's West Beverly High will have a guidance counselor familiar with the posh ZIP code's dating, drugs and drama.

Jennie Garth will reprise her role as Kelly Taylor and join the cast of a planned "Beverly Hills, 90210" spinoff on CW.

She won't be a regular but will play a guidance counselor at her alma mater, the Hollywood Reporter said in a story published online Saturday.

Garth, 36, departed the CBS comedy pilot "My Best Friend's Girl" last month.

In this Nov. 18, 2007 file photo Actress Jennie Garth arrives at the American Music Awards in Los Angeles. AP



Source: NBC installing Fallon on 'Late Night'

NEW YORK (AP)—Jimmy Fallon will officially be given the keys to NBC's "Late Night" franchise following Conan O'Brien's exit.

A person close to the negotiations who spoke on condition of anonymity because the announcement hadn't been made confirmed the widely rumored change Sunday and said a news conference was planned for Monday.

All that's left is an official date for NBC's transition: O'Brien moving out West to take over for Jay Leno on the "Tonight" show and Fallon following in the next time slot.

Fallon was a "Saturday Night Live" cast member before leaving for a movie career in 2004. He has had mixed success, with his most notable role as a child-like Boston Red Sox fan and Drew Barrymore's paramour in "Fever Pitch."

He signed a deal with NBC in 2007 that was widely seen as a way to keep him in the fold until the time came for Monday's announcement.

It would be hard for him to have a rockier transition than O'Brien had when he took over from David Letterman in the mid-1990s. O'Brien was a writer with a quick sense of humor but a mystery to the television audience, and he was savaged in early reviews. NBC nearly fired him but persevered, and O'Brien grew into the role.

It was in large part to keep O'Brien happy that NBC announced four years ago that he would replace Leno next year.

While Leno went along with the plan, there are reports that the workaholic comic is not eager to leave. NBC Universal is trying to find a job that would satisfy him and avoid having Leno move to ABC or Fox to compete directly against O'Brien.

NBC could decide to back out of the plan and keep Leno on "Tonight," but O'Brien's contract calls for a penalty fee reportedly close to \$40 million.



Jimmy Fallon arrives at the Metropolitan Museum of Art's Costume Institute Gala, in New York on Monday, May 5, 2008. AP

Parents protecting son cut off contact with grandparents

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



DEAR ABBY: I am in my sunset years and not well. I know my time is short, but I have one bright spot in my life—my 5-year-old grandson, "Connor."

Because the little fella stayed with us after preschool and spent much time with us, my wife and I are especially fond of him.

Our problem? Connor's dad (our son) and his wife (the child's mother) disapprove of our fondness for Connor. They say they don't want the boy "hurt" by my impending death and now keep him away from us as much as possible.

Abby, we adore our grandchild. We're heartbroken that he is being kept away from us much of the time simply because his parents are afraid he will grieve when his Paw-Paw dies. What should we do?

—PAW-PAW AND MAW-MAW IN ALABAMA

DEAR PAW-PAW: Your son and daughter-in-law mean well, but they are misguided in trying to "protect" their son from one of the inescapable realities of life. They may be trying to avoid their own issues having to do with death.

You need to have a serious talk with them. Connor's relationship with you and his grandmother is a positive one, regardless of the state of your health. It might be helpful to enlist the assistance of your spiritual adviser and/or your physician.

Death is a part of life, and as sad as these partings may be, children usually recover with amazing resiliency. To cheat Connor—and you—out of the short time you have left together is a mistake.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I have been involved with "Alex" for almost five years. We have lived together for two of these five years and have been having problems in the last year or so.

I'm interested in getting some kind of relationship counseling, as I am confident we can work things out once the lines of communication are opened again. My problem is I don't know where to look. I often hear about marriage counseling. Is that only for married people? If you have any ideas, I'd be grateful.

—BECKIE IN BOSTON

DEAR BECKIE: Your physician should be able to refer you to a counselor who can help. Marriage counseling is a form of couples counseling or relationship counseling, and it will work for any couple—married or not—who are willing to work at it.

If Alex is open to the idea, some sessions could help you establish healthier, more direct and meaningful communication with each other. I hope you can talk him into going and wish you the best of luck.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I have recently moved from New Jersey to Florida. When I am invited to someone's home for a party or dinner, I always bring a hostess gift, wine or dessert. However, when I invite these people to my home, they wrap or pack up what they brought and take it with them when they leave.

I have never experienced this where I was raised. Is this proper?

—NEWCOMER TO FORT PIERCE, FLA.

DEAR NEWCOMER: Not where I come from it isn't. The term "hostess gift" means it is a GIFT for the person hosting the party or dinner. It should be left with the host or hostess to enjoy at any time the person wishes—and it does not have to be shared with the guests. To march into the person's kitchen, wrap and take home the unused portion without it being offered is just plain rude.

■ ■ ■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

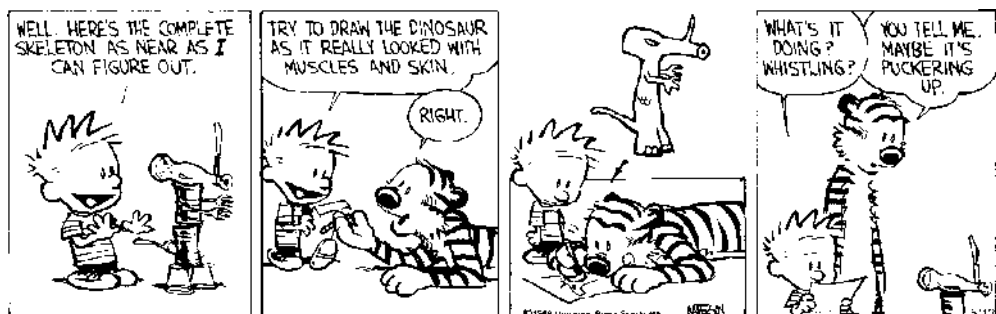
■ ■ ■

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



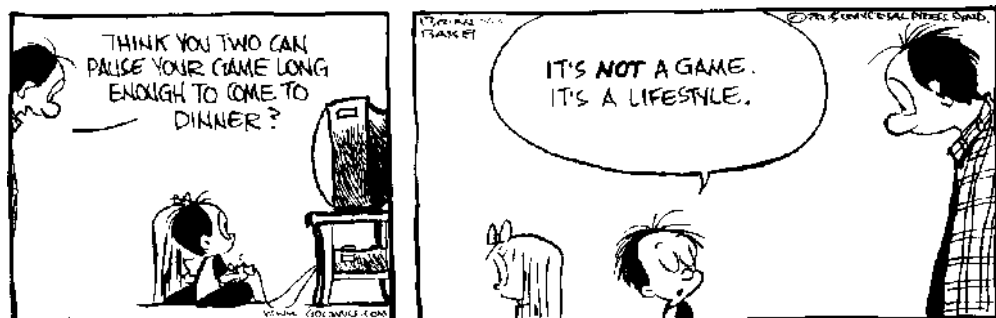
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

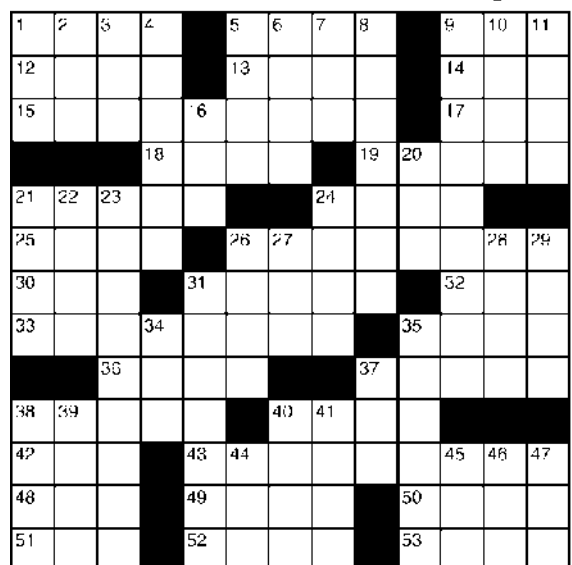
1 African gully
5 Zilch
9 Foundation
12 Verve
13 Green acres?
14 Praiseful verse
15 Con
17 Wire measure
18 Nevada city
19 Singer Mercer
21 Cavalry weapon
24 Barbecue entree
25 Cattleman's tool
26 Pants
30 Intend
31 Fake name
32 Actress Longoria
33 Dining surface, e.g.
35 Film sample
36 Ostentation
37 Surveys
38 Great enthusiasm

DOWN

1 Charlotte's creation
2 —
3 River
4 Rooted as by herodity
5 Night light?
6 Rico-shaped pasta
7 Zilch
8 Adversaries
9 Stunner
10 Falco of "The Sopranos"
11 Farmer's home?
16 "the fields we go"
20 "Grey's Anatomy" network
21 Quarrel
22 Met melody
23 Pompous
24 Harvest
26 Diner sandwich, for short
27 Brazilian resort city
28 Satan's specialty
29 Enervates
31 Involving oxygen consumption
34 Illuminated
35 Attractive
37 Rep or Dem
38 Was philanthropic
39 Monad
40 Eastern bigwig (Var.)
41 Recipe meas.
44 Middle of N.A.
45 Life story
46 Wapiti
47 CBS logo

Solution time: 21 mins.

Yesterday's answer 5-13



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ or y.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Stephen Colbert, 44; Julianne Phillips, 48; Stevie Wonder, 58; Harvey Keitel, 69

Happy Birthday: This is your year to excel, to reach for the stars, to show everyone what you are capable of doing. It is your chance to combine your stamina, experience and practical but precise way of doing things into something masterful. Count on prosperity and personal gains if you don't let up. Your numbers are 7, 15, 21, 23, 38, 44

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't overstep your bounds. Do what's expected of you and keep a low profile for best results. It's the work you do that will count. If you push hard now, you will get positive results. ★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You can't lose, no matter how you play the game today. There is lots of opportunity around you, especially if you network with people in your field. Pick up on what everyone else wants or needs and you will stand a good chance of pleasing everyone. ★★★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Bossing others around will lead to trouble. Instead, be responsible and compromise. If you can find a solution that works for everyone, you can turn things around and improve everyone's view of you. ★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): The less time spent thinking about what you have to do and the more time physically taking action, the better. You will get the help you need. Concentrate on what really matters to you personally. ★★★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You'll find yourself in an awkward position if you haven't been honest about your feelings. Focus on work and professional dealings and you may be able to avoid some of the personal questions being asked of you. Don't let your emotions take over. ★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Discuss your intentions. Romance should be on your mind and plans made to improve a relationship you cherish. A decision regarding where you live can be made, based on a conversation you have with someone whose company you enjoy. ★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Someone you know has a hidden agenda. Ulterior motives will be in play. Your intuition will pick up what's going on around you, so plan to counter any scheme to manipulate you. Look out for your own interests. ★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Expect the unexpected and be prepared. Actions will be the key but don't do so out of revenge. You will fare much better if you make your choices based on what you want, not what will destroy others. ★★★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You won't be able to control the situation going on around you. Proceed with caution, both mentally and physically. A wrong move may cost you dearly. Put your effort into financial gain and doing the best job possible. ★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Now is a good time to pick up a new skill and

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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parlay it into something that interests you. It's always better to be safe than sorry, so don't wait around for things to happen—start the ball rolling. ★★★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Someone may want to become deeply involved with you or take on a new project with you. Before you say yes, consider if you really need a partner right now. The more you can do on your own, the more you will accomplish. ★★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): If you end a relationship with someone because of one incident, you may regret it. Sometimes it's better to give a little to get a little. A new position may be worth looking at but make sure you are qualified. ★★★★★

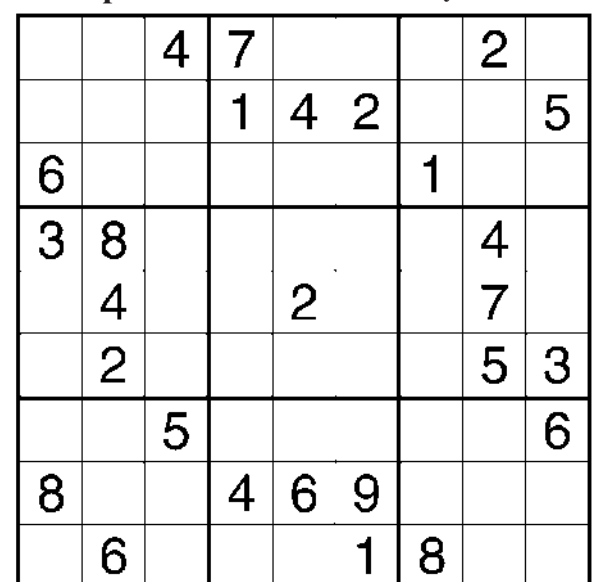
Birthday Baby: You are very particular, practical and precise. You stick to your convictions and are not likely to let anyone persuade you differently. You are a loyal friend and lover.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



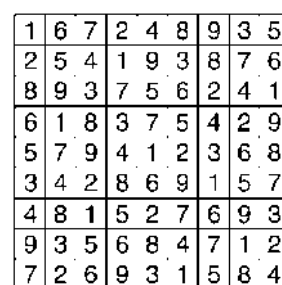
Difficulty Level ★★

5/13

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★

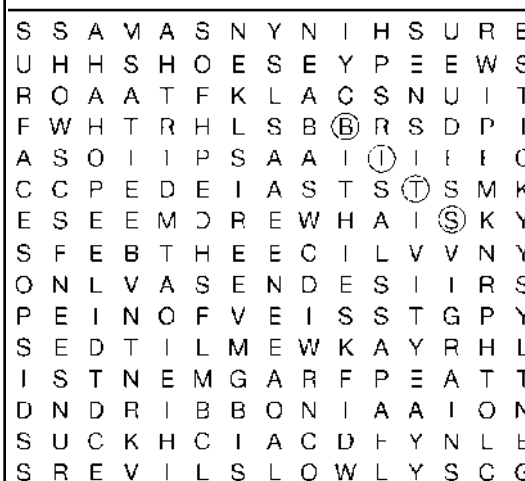
Wonderword®

By DAVID QUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORDS. The answer letters spell the Wonderword.

PICKING UP BROKEN GLASS

Solution: 8 letters



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5/13

Amass, Assemble, Bits, Brush, Catch, Cloth, Cotton, Dish, Dispose, Feet, Find, Flashlight, Fragments, Gently, Gloves, Grains, Hands, Hidden, Immediate, Messy, Napkin, Pans, Pieces, Ribbon, Risky, Serd, Sensitivity, Sharp, Shattered, Shiny, Shoes, Show, Slivers, Slowly, Spread, Steps, Sticky, Succ, Surface, Swab, Sweep, Task, Tiny, Jigsaw, Verify, Visible, Wash, Wipe

Yesterday's Answer: Glittery

Today's 4-letter words are: 1. 100% correct; 2. 90% correct; 3. 80% correct; 4. 70% correct; 5. 60% correct; 6. 50% correct; 7. 40% correct; 8. 30% correct; 9. 20% correct; 10. 10% correct; 11. 0% correct.

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Apartment room for rent: Fully furnished
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• 5-Liner	\$35
• 3-Liner with picture	\$45
• 5-Liner with picture	\$55

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Saturday And Sunday Issues:
- Saipan Tribune: All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.

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Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

Job Vacancy Announcements

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

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Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Duncan scores 22 as Spurs beat Hornets

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—Tim Duncan had 22 points and 15 rebounds, and the San Antonio Spurs beat the New Orleans Hornets 100-80 on Sunday night in Game 4 to even the Western Conference semifinals at 2-2.

Tony Parker added 21 points for the Spurs, who are assured of a Game 6 back in San Antonio. Chris Paul scored 23 for the Hornets. Game 5 is Tuesday in New Orleans.

The Spurs led by as many as 27 and were ahead nearly the entire game. They shot 51 percent (39-of-76), while the Hornets were cold when it counted. They shot 37 percent through three quarters and finished 33-of-82 (40 percent) from the field.

The Spurs scored 40 points in the paint. New Orleans' plan to keep Parker out of the lane didn't work, as he knifed his way through heavy traffic or found openings to get to the rim, and hit jumpers.

Manu Ginobili, who also got to the rim at will in Game 3, wasn't as successful in Game 4. But he hit jumpers and two 3-pointers, finishing with 15 points. Duncan also had four blocks.

The Spurs outrebounded the Hornets 45-36 and outscored them 30-19 in the decisive third quarter.

The Hornets' David West had three blocks but was held to 10 points on 4-of-15 shooting and was visibly frustrated. Reserve Jannero Pargo scored 11 for the Hornets.

The Hornets were hoping to return to New Orleans with a commanding 3-1 series lead, but allowed Duncan and Parker to shoot a combined 18-of-25 from the field. The only area where the duo struggled was its free-throw shooting. Duncan was 2-of-5 and Parker 5-of-8.

The Spurs were ahead for all but 3:24 in the first half, taking

the lead for good after Parker's layup with 8:36 to play in the first quarter broke a 4-all tie.

San Antonio shot 57.5 percent in the first half, led by Parker and Duncan, who each hit 7-of-10 from the field. Parker had no problem getting to the rim early to lead the Spurs with 18 points at the break.

He had two layups as part of a 13-2 Spurs run, and his jumper capped the burst with 5:27 left in the second quarter to put the Spurs up 45-28.

Duncan, who had flu-like symptoms and ran a fever earlier in the series but said he felt good the day before Game 4, was as effective as he's been against the Hornets this series. He had 15 points and three blocks at the half.

His spin move on Tyson Chandler for an easy layup put San Antonio up 47-33 with four minutes left in the half.

Paul had 14 points at halftime, but the Hornets were down 55-42 at the break. West was struggling as he was harassed by the Spurs but also missed a couple of open shots, including an airball to start the second quarter.

In the third quarter, when the Hornets were so dominant in the first two games, the Spurs kept up their hot shooting and New Orleans got worse.

Chandler had to sit with 8:39 to play after picking up his fourth and fifth fouls in quick succession. He finished with just two points—a pair of free throws—and four rebounds.

Ginobili's floating jumper with 7:19 left and ensuing foul shot put the Spurs up 69-48,



San Antonio Spurs guard Manu Ginobili, right, of Argentina, goes up for a shot against New Orleans Hornets forward David West during the second quarter of Game 4 of an NBA Western Conference semifinal basketball series Sunday, May 11, 2008, in San Antonio.

and the Spurs would finish the quarter with a 7-0 run and their biggest lead of the night to that point, 85-61.

Hornets coach Byron Scott emptied his bench to start the fourth. Spurs coach Gregg Popovich soon did the same.

Jazz 123, Lakers 115
At Salt Lake City, Andrei Kir-

ilenko blocked Kobe Bryant twice in overtime and converted a three-point play with 35 seconds remaining as the Utah Jazz beat the Los Angeles Lakers 123-115 on Sunday, tying the Western Conference semifinals at 2-2. The Jazz went 9-for-9 from the foul line in overtime and outscored the Lakers 15-7 in the extra 5 minutes.

Nelson: Magic are going to win Game 5 in Detroit

ORLANDO, Fla.—His team backed into a 3-1 corner in the Eastern Conference semifinals, Orlando Magic guard Jameer Nelson guaranteed a Magic victory when the series returns to Detroit on Tuesday.

"We're going to make some adjustments and we're going to win this game," Nelson said after Orlando's 90-89 loss on Saturday. "I'm not being arrogant or cocky or anything like that. I think [Saturday] we let it slip out of our hands. Game 2 we let it slip out of our hands. We're going to win this game in Detroit."

That's a tall order for a Magic team that couldn't even the series at home despite a 15-point, third-quarter lead against a Pistons team that had All-Star point guard Chauncey Billups sitting on the bench in a sport coat. Even so, Orlando remains optimistic.

"Devastating is the fourth loss

in a series. It's a bad loss but it's not devastating," Magic coach Stan Van Gundy said. "The series goes on."

Not for much longer if the Magic can't get Dwight Howard on track. After becoming the first player since Wilt Chamberlain to record three 20-point, 20-rebound games in a series during the first round against Toronto, the Magic's 22-year-old All-Star has struggled. He had just eight points Saturday—all but two of them in the first quarter—with Detroit's veteran front line tugging persistently on Superman's cape.

"He couldn't get in there and get the easy buckets that he wanted," said Pistons center Rasheed Wallace, who along with Antonio McDyess and Jason Maxiell have banged Howard around all series. "We definitely saw that. That is what we want—we want

a physical game. That's right up our alley."

Howard was 3-of-12 from the field and shot just two free throws, making both. He had 12 rebounds, but even that was below his league-leading average of 14 during the regular season.

"They were very physical with him, and how the game is called is a huge thing," Van Gundy said.

Howard admitted he was frustrated that the Magic were forced into Detroit's half-court game. They couldn't get out in transition, which was the key to their 111-point effort in a Game 3 victory, and he couldn't get the ball in position to score.

"We've got to play our game—that's the only way to beat these guys," Howard said. "We can't get stuck into playing the way they play basketball."

The Magic's challenge is not

Deron Williams had 29 points and 14 assists, while Carlos Boozer scored 12 of his 14 points in the second half and grabbed 12 rebounds. Mehmet Okur added 18 points and 11 rebounds, and Kirilenko finished with 15 points and five blocks - stuffing Bryant twice as the Lakers tried to rally in overtime.

Bryant finished with 33 points and 10 assists.

Game 5 is Wednesday in Los Angeles.

Utah was 40-for-76 (53 percent) and had a huge advantage at the foul line, making 37 of 45 free throws. The Lakers got only 25 attempts from the line and missed 11 of them. The Jazz reserves also dominated the Lakers', outscoring them 39-16.

Los Angeles rallied from a 12-point deficit in the final four minutes to force overtime. Derek Fisher scored 10 straight for the Lakers and blocked a shot by Williams just before the end of regulation with the score tied at 108.

The Lakers struggled in overtime and didn't score until a layup by Bryant with 1:10 remaining cut Utah's lead to 112-110. Los Angeles almost forced the Jazz into a shot clock violation before Kyle Korver got off a shot from the corner just in time. The ball bounced off the rim right to Okur, who passed

it back outside to Williams, and Utah was able to burn some time before Williams slipped a pass to Kirilenko, who dunked it while getting fouled by Lamar Odom.

Kirilenko made the free throw to put Utah up by five and the Jazz hit the rest of their free throws to clinch it.

Odom had 26 points and 13 rebounds, and Pau Gasol scored 23 and pulled down 10 boards. Fisher finished with 15 points, but no assists and got in early foul trouble.

Utah backup guard Ronnie Price also had a big game, despite finishing with four points and two assists. Price had to get four stitches for a cut over his right eye after he was flagrantly fouled early in the second quarter by Ronny Turiaf, who was ejected.

Turiaf came down hard with his left arm and Price went straight down and his head bounced on the court. Price leaped right up as his teammates swarmed the officials and pushed for the flagrant call. He got stitches in the locker room and came back in the second half with one of the plays of the game.

Luke Walton had a clear path for a layup or dunk after a missed 3-pointer by Price, who caught him from behind and blocked the shot midway through the fourth to keep Utah's lead at 92-84.

Report: USC guard O.J. Mayo got cash, benefits from promoter

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A former associate of USC freshman guard O.J. Mayo claims the basketball star received thousands of dollars in cash and other gifts from an event promoter over the past four years that would violate NCAA rules, ESPN reported Sunday.

Louis Johnson told ESPN's "Outside the Lines," that Rodney Guillory, a Los Angeles-based event promoter, gave Mayo about \$30,000 and other benefits while he attended high school and during his sole season at USC. Mayo has decided to forgo his sophomore year and enter the NBA draft.

Guillory received monthly payments from Northern California sports agency Bill Duffy Associates, the network reported.

Mayo signed with the same agency last month shortly after declaring that he would enter the June 26 draft, where he is expected to be a lottery pick.

Phone messages left Sunday for Bill Duffy Associates and at a home number listed in Guillory's name were not immediately returned.

Johnson said the agency provided Guillory with about \$200,000 before Mayo arrived at USC. Guillory used most of the money to support his own lifestyle but also gave a portion of

it to Mayo, Johnson told ESPN. Mayo then entered into a verbal agreement that allowed the agency to represent him when he turned pro, Johnson added.

Giving college athletes money or other gifts violates NCAA policy.

"I will not allow these allegations to become a distraction to me and my family," Mayo said in a statement to ESPN. "I have not engaged in any wrongdoing."

Mayo got into some minor trouble with the NCAA earlier this year after he accepted free tickets from Denver Nuggets forward Carmelo Anthony to an NBA game. Mayo didn't miss any games but had to contribute \$460—the total value of the two tickets—to a charitable organization.

USC said in a statement that NCAA and Pac-10 officials have looked into Mayo's status "before and during his enrollment at USC, and did not identify any amateurism violations."

Johnson said he doesn't believe USC officials knew Guillory provided cash and other benefits to Mayo. However, he claims some USC coaches had regular contact with Guillory.

Johnson, who claims he didn't get paid, also gave ESPN receipts and invoices for many of the purchases.

Garcia ends drought with playoff win

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Fla. (AP)—Sergio Garcia, the best player without a major, got the next best thing Sunday. Garcia ended the longest victory drought of his career by making a clutch par putt to force a playoff and hitting the island-green 17th on the first extra hole to defeat Paul Goydos in The Players Championship.

Haunted by putting problems that kept him without a victory the past three years and 53 PGA Tour events, Garcia came up with a 45-foot birdie on the 14th to get back in the game and a 7-foot par putt on the 18th hole for a 1-under 71.

Goydos, playing in the final group, missed a 15-foot par putt on the last hole for the win. He closed with a 74.

It was the first playoff at The Players since 1987, and the first time the PGA Tour opted to start it on the most notorious par 3 in golf. The shot was only 128 yards, but in wind that blasted 30 mph throughout the day, to a green surrounded by water.

What a bad coincidence for Goydos—he was the first to hit into the water when the tournament began Thursday, and the last player to go into the water at the worst time. His wedge came up short, and when Goydos saw the splash, he looked to the sky.

Garcia still faced the pressure of finding land, and his wedge hit the middle of the green and rolled to 4 feet. He missed the birdie putt, the one time it didn't matter. He could have taken three putts from there and still won.

Goydos wound up making double bogey, the end of a dream week in which his dry humor and honest per-

spective finally had an audience.

"It's been a lot of work," Garcia said, clutching the crystal trophy. "It feels like the last three years I've been playing well. Unfortunately, I haven't been able to come around and win. This week, I played so nicely. It felt like everything was so hard. I'm just thrilled the week is over and I managed to finish on top."

Garcia and Goydos finished at 5-under 283.

The 28-year-old Spaniard, whose seven PGA Tour victories are the most by players under age 30, earned \$1.71 million from the richest purse in golf and again enters the conversation as a major contender with the U.S. Open a month away.

In the first playoff of his 16-year career, Goydos was extraordinarily gracious in a defeat so difficult that he tripped over his words.

AP
Sergio Garcia, of Spain, holds the winner's trophy after winning The Players Championship, Sunday, May 11, 2008, in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla.

He patted Garcia on the back as they walked to the island green, congratulating him.

And he offered no excuses.

"Look at the shot Sergio hit in the playoff," Goydos said. "I got beat. I played good golf. That doesn't mean you win. There's no defense. I can't tackle the little guy. There's no knee-capping. You have to accept the guy beat me."

"They key is to have the lead with no holes to go."

The consolation for Goydos was \$1.026 million for second place, more than he earned for winning the Sony Open last year.

J e f f



Quinney had a chance to join the playoff. He went bogey-free for 10 holes in gusts that topped 40 mph at times, but failed to save par from a bunker behind the 18th green and had to settle for a 70 and third place alone, one shot behind.

Garcia never needed a victory so badly.

He had a 10-foot putt to win the British Open at Carnoustie last summer, then lost in a playoff to Padraig Harrington. No club troubled him more than the putter, and this week on the TPC Sawgrass was no exception.

Garcia took 124 putts in regulation, 18 more than Goydos.

But he sure came up big in the final round, rolling in a collection of par putts that kept him in the hunt, birdie putts that challenged Goydos and a par on the 18th hole that made this victory possible.

Playing for the first time in his career with a 54-hole lead, Goydos battled to keep it. He led by three shots with five holes to play until a two-shot swing on the 14th hole turned the final hour into a nail-biter.

Garcia, playing in the group ahead of Goydos, made a 45-foot birdie on the 14th. Goydos then hit an ap-

proach that was inches away from hitting the flag, but bounded over the green. He missed a 10-foot par putt, then missed a par putt from 7 feet on the next hole.

Goydos regained the lead on the par-5 16th with a two-putt birdie from 60 feet on the fringe.

His drive on the 18th found the right rough, easy to do with the wind blasting across the fairway in that direction. He hacked out to 50 yards short of the green, about the same distance Garcia faced, but pitched short to 15 feet and missed the putt.

The wind was relentless, stronger than it had been all week, turning the Stadium Course into a terror.

It might have been worse except that tour officials did not cut the greens and applied a double dose of water. That didn't keep Jesper Parnevik from posting an 85, the highest score at TPC Sawgrass in five years. It was one of nine rounds in the 80s, but not the most damaging. Kenny Perry, who started the final round one shot behind, shot 81.

Defending champion Phil Mickelson knew what he was up against early. Walking from the putting green to the first tee, a gust blew his cap off his head and sent it tumbling into the pond. Lefty hooked his opening tee shot into a mound and three-putted for double bogey, and his hopes of being the first repeat winner ended with a 3-foot birdie he missed on No. 11 and a tee shot into a palmetto bush on the 12th.

He closed with a 78.

Goydos overcame five bogeys with two unlikely birdies, a 50-footer on No. 4 and chipping in from 100 feet on No. 10. Garcia wouldn't go away, however, coming up with key putts for a chance, and one shot that only had to hit land.

Mets win 8-3 over Reds who bat out of order



NEW YORK (AP)—Carlos Beltran and Ryan Church hit consecutive homers in the fifth inning to support Oliver Perez and lead the New York Mets to an 8-3 victory Sunday over the Cincinnati Reds.

The Reds batted out of order in the ninth after an earlier double switch, with backup catcher David Ross coming to the plate in the No. 8 spot instead of Corey Patterson. Ross flied out to right. Once Mets manager Willie Randolph informed the umpires of the mistake, the out was charged to Patterson after a prolonged discussion by the umpires, and Ross batted again. This time, he singled.

The Reds batted out of order in the ninth after an earlier double switch, with backup catcher David Ross coming to the plate in the No. 8 spot instead of Corey Patterson. Ross flied out to right. Once Mets manager Willie Randolph informed the umpires of the mistake, the out was charged to Patterson after a prolonged discussion by the umpires, and Ross batted again. This time, he singled.

Marlins 5, Nationals 4

In Washington, Dan Uggla's second home run was a go-ahead drive in the eighth inning that lifted the Marlins to their seventh straight win.

Uggla drove in two runs and has seven RBIs and three homers in two games; he hit a grand slam Saturday and has 11 homers this season.

The Marlins have won all six of their games at Nationals Park, which opened this season, and their seven-game win streak overall is their best run since winning nine straight in August 2006.

Brewers 5, Cardinals 3

In Milwaukee, Ryan Braun hit a pair

of solo home runs, Jeff Suppan pitched seven solid innings and Salomon Torres and Brian Shouse combined to pitch the Brewers through the ninth.

Torres allowed a leadoff double and a walk before giving way to Shouse with two outs. Shouse, a left-handed specialist, gave up an RBI single to Yadier Molina before finishing for his first save and fifth of his career.

The Brewers won for only the second time in nine games.

Cubs 6, Diamondbacks 4

In Chicago, pinch-hitter Daryle Ward delivered a two-run double in the eighth inning, and the Cubs rallied again to beat the Diamondbacks.

Carlos Marmol (1-0) struck out two in a perfect eighth and Kerry Wood pitched the ninth to earn his seventh save in 10 chances and finish off Chicago's three-game sweep of Major League Baseball's National League West Division leaders.

Giants 4, Phillies 3

In San Francisco, Steve Holm hit a go-ahead, two-run drive in the seventh inning for his first major league home run, and the Giants held on for a victory in the rubber game against the Phillies.

Holm homered in his first at-bat on the first pitch he saw from J.C. Romero (3-1) after replacing Bengie Molina in the top of the seventh, sending the ball into the seats in left-center. Romero

had allowed only one homer in his previous 61 appearances and came in with an 0.63 ERA over his first 17 outings of 2008.

Padres 6, Rockies 1

In San Diego, Scott Hairston and Khalil Greene homered to spoil Greg Reynolds' first start, leading the Padres to a victory over the Rockies and their first series win in nearly a month.

The consecutive wins match the Padres' season high, giving them just six in 24 games and still leaving them with the worst record in MLB (14-24).

Astros 8, Dodgers 5

In Los Angeles, Hiroki Kuroda took a no-hitter into the seventh inning for the Dodgers before the Astros broke out for seven hits and six runs in the eighth inning to pull out a victory.

Lance Berkman, Carlos Lee and Hunter Pence had RBI singles against reliever Jonathan Broxton (1-1), and Brad Ausmus added a two-run single against the right-hander as the Astros won for the eighth time in nine games. Houston also completed its first three-game sweep at Dodger Stadium since September 25-27, 1992.

Rays 8, Angels 5

In St. Petersburg, Carl Crawford hit a three-run homer and Cliff Floyd added a pair of run-scoring singles, helping the Tampa Bay Rays stop Er-

vin Santana from becoming the first seven-game winner in the American League with a victory over the Los Angeles Angels.

Santana departed with a 5-4 lead with one runner on and two outs in the sixth inning, but the game quickly shifted when Justin Speier (0-3) entered and gave up a double to Akinori Iwamura and Crawford's third homer of the season.

B.J. Upton doubled for the third consecutive hit off the Angels reliever. He took third base on a wild pitch and scored on another wild pitch by Speier, who struggled for the second time in three days against the Rays.

Royals 4, Orioles 0

In Kansas City, Missouri, Brian Bannister allowed two singles in eight innings and the Royals ended their 12-game skid against the Orioles.

It was Kansas City's first victory over Baltimore since July 25, 2006.

Bannister struck out five and walked two to end a personal four-game losing streak. He did not allow a runner to reach second. Joakim Soria tossed a perfect ninth to finish Kansas City's fourth shutout of the year.

Athletics 12, Rangers 6

In Arlington, Texas, Emil Brown hit a three-run homer and drove in four runs to help the Athletics beat Texas, ending the Rangers' season-best five-game

winning streak Sunday.

Frank Thomas drove in two runs to give him 1,695 RBIs, tying him with Cal Ripken for 21st all-time.

Ian Kinsler had three hits for the Rangers, who had won nine of their previous 11.

Mariners 6, White Sox 3

In Seattle, Raul Ibanez hit a two-run homer in the third inning and the Mariners beat the White Sox to snap a five-game losing streak.

Jose Lopez and Ichiro Suzuki each went 3-for-4 for the Mariners, who finished with 13 hits.

Seattle got to Gavin Floyd (3-2), who has been one of the toughest pitchers to hit so far this season, for five runs and nine hits over 3 2-3 innings.

Twins 9, Red Sox 8

At Minneapolis, Craig Monroe went 2-for-4 with two of light-hitting Minnesota's three home runs and four RBIs, and the Twins hung on for a victory over Boston.

Joe Nathan gave up two runs in the ninth, but won a showdown with pinch-hitter Manny Ramirez by getting him to ground out to shortstop with the tying run on second base to pick up his 12th save in as many chances.

Monroe had his third career multi-homer game and Adam Everett also went deep during an atypically brutal start for Tim Wakefield (3-2) in the Metrodome. Nick Blackburn (3-2) earned the victory.

Realtors derail Express; Phone Pals whip Kings

MANILA, Philippines—Kelly Williams and Wesley Wilson scored 15 points each in the first half and finished with identical 25 markers to lead Sta. Lucia Realty to a 113-100 victory over Air21 that snapped a two-game winning run by the Express in the Smart PBA Fiesta Cup eliminations at the Araneta Coliseum in Quezon City.

The Realtors rode the offensive explosion of the two in the first two periods to break away, then opened up leads of as many as 19 points in the third quarter on the way to jacking up their record to 5-3.

It was the first loss in three games for the Express, whose trademark run-and-gun game was effectively shut down by the Realtors. Air21 dropped to a level 4-4 card.

“I credit my players for starting strong on defense, for committing themselves to stop the transition game of Air21,” said Sta. Lucia coach Boyet Fernan-

dez, who also had two other starters score in twin digits.

The Express were held to just two fastbreak points even as the Realtors scored 27 in that department after capitalizing on Air21’s 29 turnovers.

It was a complete reversal for both teams as the Express usually dominate opponents with their pressure defense and transition points.

In the second game, Mac Cardona had 26 points and joined hands with Jimmy Alapag in preserving a 105-95 victory by Talk ‘N Text that sent Ginebra deeper into the cellar with a 1-7 slate.

Alapag finished with 18 points behind 22 of Aaron McGhee as the Phone Pals notched their sixth win in nine outings.

Sta. Lucia rookie Ryan Reyes, who laid a big fat egg in a lopsided loss to Red Bull last week, tossed in 15 markers in starting

out at the point. He also had 10 assists and four rebounds.

Nelbert Omolon added 17 points in 33 minutes for the Realtors, who played with a complete lineup with skipper Dennis Espino returning from injured bay to contribute four points off the bench.

Steven Thomas led the Express with 24 points and 10 rebounds in the game which got very physical in the second half, which Fernandez said could have been avoided had the referees not lost control.

From a shaky 34-29 lead after the first period, the Realtors put on their skates and zoomed to a 64-49 lead at the turn. They were never threatened from there.

Sta. Lucia roared to a couple of 19-point leads, the last at 82-63 after a Wilson basket with 4:48 to play in the third quarter. Wilson snared just five boards but finished with six swats.

First Game

Sta. Lucia 113 – Williams 25, Wilson 25, Omolon 17, Reyes 15, Mendoza 8, Aquino 7, Yeo 6, Miranda 5, Espino 4, Coronel 1, Gonzales 0.

Air21 100 – Thomas 24, Cruz 12, Canaleta 12, David 12, Santos 11, Arboleda 10, De Ocampo 7, Se 6, Kramer 4, Bilonex 2.

Quarters: 34-29, 64-49, 89-75, 113-100

Second Game

Talk ‘N Text 105 – Cardona 26, McGhee 22, Alapag 18, Washington 10, Peek 10, De Ocampo 9, Carey 8, Allado 2, Chia 0, Ritualo 0.

Ginebra 95 – Caguioa 24, Alexander 23, Helterbrand 19, Artadi 5, Valenzuela 5, Pablo 5, Mamaril 4, Crisano 4, Salvacion 3, Menk 2, Wilson 1, Escalona 0.

Quarters: 31-18, 54-35, 81-64, 105-95. *(PDI)*

LATE-INNING

From Page 28

BIG LEAGUE

Falcons 7, Hustlers 2

Tako Camacho pitched 5 2/3 innings in relief to help the Sablan Topline Falcons of Tanapag score a 7-2 win over the Hustlers

GECKOS

From Page 28

was divided for the Geckos as they also trained for the 2008 Marianas Cup last month where the CNMI pulled off a scoreless draw against Guam.

Some of Epley’s players were also part of the Mock Trial team. “We practice rarely as a full team and we seldom have had good practices. We have to practice a lot and harder next year since Noelle Calvo will be back for

on Sunday.

Camacho after walking Maria-no Lisua, who stole home, settled in after that tossing five shutout innings yielding four hits with five strikeouts and no walks.

Drew Magofna pitched 1 1/3 innings in start giving up one unearned run on one hit with no strikeout and two walks.

Martin Pangelinan scored on a passed ball on Magofna’s turn on the mound.

Aztecs 6, Jets 1

Nicolas San Nicolas tossed a complete game five-hitter as the UMDA Aztecs tripped the JET Realty Jets, 6-1, on Saturday.

San Nicolas struck out six

batters and walked one more in seven innings on the mound. He walked Bill Fleming, who scored the Jets’ lone run on a passed ball in the fifth.

Manny Cabrera earned the loss pitching six innings giving up five earned runs on 11 hits with four strikeouts and no walks.

SOCC

From Page 28

its third straight crown.

Sikkel, who also competed in other outrigger canoe races in Australia, is fresh from successfully organizing the Tinian Crossing where they made their third successful crossing in record-breaking fashion last week.

SOCC paddlers returned

Mt. Carmel and they would be the team to beat next year. We must practice extra hard if we expect to go up against MCS.”

Despite Halaby and Smith’s departure Epley still has reliable starters Jewell, Lila Mailman, Hae Jim Kim, Amber Roberts—who is only in eighth grade next year and also played in the Lady Geckos’ junior varsity squad this year.

He can also expect a lot more from the come-backing Dan Bi Choi, who also started for the Lady Geckos’ back to-

back title wins in 2006 and 2007. “I’ve heard she’s [Choi] coming back.”

“The team is not going to lack for new people to score the points [despite] relying on Madison [Smith] and Melissa [Halaby] to score [in the past]. But the others will be fine and they will surely step up for next year.”

Smith was also named the league most valuable player and was a member of the all-star team along with teammate Halaby.

Smith and Halaby put on a

two-pronged attack to help the SIS Lady Geckos score a 40-34 decision against the Lady Knights last Friday in the girls division finals of Coalition of Private Schools Sports Association basketball league.

The win completed the Lady Geckos bid to claim their third straight crown while again foiling the Lady Knights’ own title bid.

Halaby and Smith both finished with 13 points, while Jin Kim chipped in eight markers, all in put-backs in the fourth period.

JCI

From Page 28

expected \$40,000 cost for JCI’s annual cultural exchange program to South Korea set for June 3 and 6.

According to JCI CNMI president Kim Ji Yoon their group is looking to send 20 students to the Land of the Morning Calm.

The 20 will be joined by three

from Tinian and reached Kilili Beach Park in three hours and 14 minutes to break their last year’s record of 3:33. The 3:14 is also five minutes longer than their Day 1 crossing going to Tinian at 3:09.

The SOCC paddlers that joined Sikkel in the crossing were Jim Sirok, Gil Birnrich, Cooper Schraudenbach, Rita Bonici, Sonny Downer, Leon Leonard, Dave Palacios, and

Brian Eckert.

Tinian senator Jude Hofschneider also joined SOCC in their paddle going to Tinian to join his constituents in time for the celebration. Rob Jordan, Eric Lister, and Joe Przyuski were on the chase boats captained by Dan Westphal and Morito Asai.

The 40-mile, two-day challenge took place during the San Jose Fiesta on Tinian where

they paddled from Saipan to Tinian and back. The trip back on the second day was slightly tougher due to the fatigue of the previous day.

The channel is between Saipan and Tinian with its illusive and dreaded whirlpool, which is the most challenging part of the crossing. Paddlers went against the wind and swells in the second day of the crossing.

should serve more than one year and the third is the similarity in its structure to that of the United Nations Assembly.

Most of all, it is unique in its basic approach that young people have a role in organizing projects and programs to fit the needs of the communities where they live.

In the CNMI, JCI comprises two chapters—the JCI Saipan Chapter and the JCI Flame Tree Chapter. *(Mark Rabago)*

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES			
MLB STANDINGS			
AMERICAN LEAGUE			
East Division			
	W	L	Pct GB
Boston	24	16	.600 —
Tampa Bay	21	16	.568 1 1/2
Baltimore	19	19	.500 4
New York	19	19	.500 4
Toronto	17	21	.447 6
Central Division			
Minnesota	19	17	.528 —
Chicago	18	18	.500 1
Cleveland	18	18	.500 1
Kansas City	16	21	.432 3 1/2
Detroit	16	22	.421 4
West Division			
Oakland	23	16	.590 —
Los Angeles	22	17	.564 1
Texas	18	21	.462 5
Seattle	15	24	.385 8
NATIONAL LEAGUE			
East Division			
Florida	23	14	.622 —
New York	19	16	.543 3
Philadelphia	21	18	.538 3
Atlanta	18	17	.514 4
Washington	15	23	.395 8 1/2
Central Division			
Chicago	22	15	.595 —
St. Louis	23	16	.590 —
Houston	21	17	.553 1 1/2
Milwaukee	18	19	.486 4
Pittsburgh	17	19	.472 4 1/2
Cincinnati	15	23	.395 7 1/2
West Division			
Arizona	23	15	.605 —
Los Angeles	19	18	.514 3 1/2
San Francisco	16	22	.421 7
Colorado	15	23	.395 8
San Diego	14	24	.368 9
Yesterday's Games			
N.Y. Mets 8, Cincinnati 3			
Atlanta at Pittsburgh, postponed, rain			
Florida 5, Washington 4			
Milwaukee 5, St. Louis 3			
Chicago Cubs 6, Arizona 4			
San Diego 6, Colorado 1			
San Francisco 4, Philadelphia 3			
Houston 8, L.A. Dodgers 5			
N.Y. Yankees at Detroit, ppd., rain			
Toronto at Cleveland, ppd., rain			
Tampa Bay 8, L.A. Angels 5			
Kansas City 4, Baltimore 0			
Oakland 12, Texas 6			
Seattle 6, Chicago White Sox 3			
Minnesota 9, Boston 8			
PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES			
PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Florida (AP) —Final scores and earnings after Sunday's fourth round of the \$9.5 million (£6.2 million) Players Championship, a U.S. PGA Tour event played at the 7,215-yard (6,597-meter) par-72 Players Stadium Course at TPC Sawgrass (FedExCup points in parentheses; x-won on first hole of playoff):			
FINAL ROUND			
x-Sergio Garcia (4950), \$1,710,000	66-73-73-71	283	
Paul Goydos (2970), \$1,026,000	68-71-70-74	283	
Jeff Quinney (1870), \$646,000	71-73-70-70	284	
Briny Baird (1320), \$456,000	71-71-73-72	287	
Stephen Ames (1100), \$380,000	74-68-74-72	288	
Brett Quigley (890), \$307,563	70-76-72-71	289	
Ernie Els (890), \$307,563	72-71-74-72	289	
Ben Crane (890), \$307,563	70-72-75-72	289	
Tom Lehman (890), \$307,563	73-73-69-74	289	
Chad Campbell (633), \$218,500	73-72-77-68	290	
Dean Wilson (633), \$218,500	74-72-75-69	290	
Henrik Stenson (0), \$218,500	73-71-75-71	290	
J.B. Holmes (633), \$218,500	72-72-71-75	290	
Greg Kraft (633), \$218,500	75-72-68-75	290	
Kevin Stadler (426), \$147,250	70-72-78-71	291	
Fred Couples (426), \$147,250	70-72-77-72	291	
Stuart Appleby (426), \$147,250	72-72-71-76	291	
Tim Petrovic (426), \$147,250	73-73-69-76	291	
Bernhard Langer (426), \$147,250	72-67-75-77	291	
Kenny Perry (426), \$147,250	68-70-72-81	291	
Woody Austin (275), \$95,000	71-76-73-72	292	
Stewart Cink (275), \$95,000	71-75-73-73	292	
Nicholas Thompson (275), \$95,000	70-77-71-74	292	
Ian Poulter (275), \$95,000	69-74-73-76	292	
Boo Weekley (275), \$95,000	70-71-74-77	292	
Phil Mickelson (275), \$95,000	70-73-71-78	292	
Luke Donald (195), \$67,450	75-72-74-72	293	
John Merrick (195), \$67,450	70-72-77-74	293	
Rory Sabbatini (195), \$67,450	73-71-75-74	293	
Ryan Moore (195), \$67,450	72-74-73-74	293	
Jim Furyk (195), \$67,450	74-72-71-76	293	
David Toms (140), \$48,260	77-70-76-71	294	
Steve Elkington (140), \$48,260	69-76-77-72	294	
Nick O'Hern (140), \$48,260	73-74-75-72	294	
Aaron Baddeley (140), \$48,260	71-74-77-72	294	
Mike Weir (140), \$48,260	71-76-75-72	294	
Brian Gay (140), \$48,260	72-74-75-73	294	
Miguel A. Jimenez (0), \$48,260	70-74-76-74	294	
Jonathan Byrd (140), \$48,260	76-71-72-75	294	
Fredrik Jacobson (140), \$48,260	76-70-70-78	294	
Jerry Kelly (140), \$48,260	74-72-70-78	294	
Bart Bryant (86), \$29,830	73-71-79-72	295	
Robert Allenby (86), \$29,830	74-71-77-73	295	
Anthony Kim (86), \$29,830	70-70-79-76	295	
Mark Wilson (86), \$29,830	76-71-72-76	295	
Pat Perez (86), \$29,830	72-74-72-77	295	
Daniel Chopra (86), \$29,830	72-72-73-78	295	
J.J. Henry (86), \$29,830	71-73-73-78	295	
Ben Curtis (86), \$29,830	74-72-71-78	295	
Soren Hansen (0), \$29,830	71-73-73-78	295	
D.J. Trahan (66), \$22,863	70-77-79-72	296	
Retief Goosen (66), \$22,863	73-71-77-75	296	
Carl Pettersson (66), \$22,863	74-71-75-76	296	
Jose Maria Olazabal (62), \$21,280	70-75-80-72	297	
Johnson Wagner (62), \$21,280	72-74-77-74	297	
Kevin Na (62), \$21,280	72-75-76-74	297	
Ken Duke (62), \$21,280	72-75-76-74	297	
Chris DiMarco (62), \$21,280	71-73-78-75	297	
Todd Hamilton (62), \$21,280	69-77-75-76	297	
Rocco Mediate (62), \$21,280	74-72-72-79	297	
Adam Scott (62), \$21,280	75-71-71-80	297	
Davis Love III (62), \$21,280	73-74-70-80	297	
Nick Watney (59), \$20,235	76-71-74-77	298	
Charlie Wi (59), \$20,235	74-73-69-82	298	
Cliff Kresge (58), \$19,950	74-71-77-77	299	
Camilo Villegas (57), \$19,570	74-73-77-76	300	
Richard Sterne (0), \$19,570	77-70-76-77	300	
Jose Coceres (57), \$19,570	72-75-71-82	300	
Heath Slocum (55), \$19,095	69-76-78-78	301	
Jesper Parnevik (55), \$19,095	72-74-70-85	301	
Jason Bohn (54), \$18,810	74-73-79-76	302	
Billy Mayfair (54), \$18,620	72-73-77-81	303	
Troy Matteson (53), \$18,335	70-76-80-81	307	
Tommy Armour III (53), \$18,335	71-76-80-80	307	
BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS			
LOCAL SCORES			
LITTLE LEAGUE STANDINGS			
Junior League			
Jets	9	3	
Lion Hearts	7	5	
O'Aces	6	6	
Fielders	2	5	
Senior League			
Dolphins	8	3	
Jets	8	3	
Fielders	8	3	
D9ers	3	6	
Liong Hearts	1	11	
Big League			
Falcons	9	4	
Hustlers	9	4	
Jets	7	4	
Aztecs	6	7	
Dolphins	1	13	
FMI Standings			
Open division			
Advance X-Terminators	6	1	
O'Aces	5	1	
GEC Pawnshop	4	2	
Shirley's Coffee Shop	4	2	
TASI Tours	4	2	
Price Costco	3	3	
SMF-Seabridge	1	4	
MIGS	0	6	
Starwater	0	6	
Masters division			
Taga Warriors	4	1	
Bank of Saipan	3	2	
GEC Pawnshop	3	2	
Tan Holdings CTSI	3	3	
Fixers	0	5	

Price Costco stuns Xterminators, Pacers nail 3rd win

By JON PEREZ

jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Price Costco caught the Advance X-Terminators on their off night to score a thrilling 97-96 overtime win in Sunday night's open division game in the 2008 FMI Inter-Color Basketball League at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

In the masters class, the Tan Holdings/CTSI Pacers coasted to their third straight win with a 108-83 drubbing of former leader Bank of Saipan in the second game.

The Storemasters leaned on the end-game heroics of the seldom-used Ernie Duenas and the indefatigable Bruce Berline to bring the Xterminators, who were still in Cloud 9 after scoring a 105-103 win over Ol'Aces last week, back down to earth.

The win improved the Roger Valencia-coached Storemasters' record to an even 3-3 card to fortify their play-off chances in the nine-team field. Price Costco's win also ended the X-Terminators' six-game winning run.

Duenas and Berline combined for 17 points in the fourth quarter and in overtime to complete the win. Duenas scored eight of his team's 29 fourth quarter points to force overtime. Berline scored four markers in overtime, both crucial baskets to foil the Xterminators' bid of winning their seventh straight game.

Berline paced Price Costco with 22 points but continued to struggle at the free throw line going 6-for-14, 4-for-10 in the first half where they found themselves trailing the Xterminators at 56-41.

Price Costco also shot a combined 19-for-42 at the stripe for a 45 percent clip with perennial top scorer Dave Sablan, who finished with 17 points, going 4-for-11.

Duenas, who usually scores less than six points a game, erupted for 19 markers with eight coming in a telling fourth quarter rally. Ben Sablan added 11 more for the Storemasters.

Jonathan Lim and Lerio Pagarao each finished with 24 points for the X-Terminators, while Edsel Mendoza scattered 13 points. Andres "Jhun" Estolas Jr., who scored a season-high 40 in their win against Ol'Aces last week, was held to 13 points.

CTSI Pacers 108, Bank of Saipan 83

In the masters division, Edel Cariño played like a man possessed in the second half to lead the Pacers to a 108-83 crushing of Bank of Saipan.

Cariño scored 19 of his season-high 26 points in the second half to lead the Pacers to their third straight win after losing their first three games. The loss also avenged the Pacers' 89-100 first round



JON PEREZ

Price Costco's Ivan De Vero, left, tries to defend against Jericho Cruz of Ol'Aces in this file photo taken in their game in the FMI Inter-Color Basketball League at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

loss to the Bankers.

Cariño got plenty of support from Ferdie Tobias and Ariel Jinang, who chipped in 17 and 15 each, while Adonis Macoto and William Opone netted 12 and 11 markers.

Cariño, Jinang, and Opone were also members of HANMI Cup champion Fiesta-Grand Hotel.

James Abuy scored 23 points to lead the Bankers,

while Warren Villegas and Alex Ocampo contributed 12 and 11 apiece.

Shirley's/Blue Haus 100, Star Water 75

Ryan Sanciango, Bing Marasigan, and John Santos scored in the 20s as Shirley's Coffee Shop/Blue Haus waltzed to a 100-75 win over Star Water in the other open division game.

Sanciango scored 17 of his team-high 27 points in the final half, while Marasigan scattered 25 points and Santos finished with 23. Elmer Esdreton had a quiet 11 markers.

McClein Achas paced the Waterkings with 28 points, while Sherwin Samson and Roderick Lopez added 14 and 11 each.

Ol'Aces will try to bounce back from their last week's loss to the X-Terminators when they battle darkhorse TASI Tours Giants in tomorrow's 8pm game. The Fixers try to end its five-game slide when they clash with GEC Pawnshop in the first game.

First Game

Shirley's Coffee Shop 100 – Sanciango 27, Marasigan 25, Santos 23, Esdreton 11, Barbo 8, Camacho 4, Montano 2.

Star Water 75 – Mc. Achas 28, Samson 14, Lopez 11, R. Achas 8, Mateo 8, Iguel 4, Sacramento 2.

Scoring by quarters: 22-16, 45-35, 68-58, 100-75.

Referees: Noel Delos Santos and Dado Vistal.

Second Game

Tan Holdings/CTSI Pacers 108 – Cariño 26, Tobias 17, Jinang 15, Macoto 12, Opone 11, Galag 7, Salazar 7, Dimaano 4, Solidum 3, Alcantara 2, Alejandro 2, Garcia 2.

Bank of Saipan 83 – Abuy 23, Villegas 12, Ocampo 11, Ebuen 9, Delos Santos 8, Tipples 8, Darag 5, Dacula 4, Lopez 3.

Scoring by quarters: 27-25, 51-48, 80-66, 108-83.

Referees: Eric Artillaga and Jess Pabula.

Third Game

Price Costco 97 – Berline 22, Duenas 19, D. Sablan 17, B. Sablan 11, Johnson 9, Lauron 8, Alfonso 2, Irinaka 2.

Advance X-Terminators 96 – Lim 24, Pagarao 24, Estolas 13, E. Mendoza 13, Capalad 6, Fitial 6, Artates 4, Dayri 2, J. Mendoza 2, Ruluked 2.

Scoring by quarters: 19-22, 56-41, 60-74, 89-89, (OT) 97-96.

Referees: Noel Delos Santos and Jess Pabula.



JON PEREZ

The Inaugural Ayuda Charity Mountain Bike Race will start at the at the American Memorial Park on May 31. Photo above shows last month's participants in the Crazy 8 brace for the start of the event.

and will go up toward Navy Hill Road and will turnaround just before you reach Mt. Tapochao.

Shaj Hossain and Ichitaro Faisao had four and three steals, while Jonathan Norita collared 11 rebounds. Faisao also had five steals, while John Norita had three steals, two assists, and two rebounds.

Faisao also paced G-Rollers with 19 points while Hossain added 11 markers.

14-and-under

Southern Sonics 62 – Ecalnea 26, John Villanueva 14, Darag 6, Cadiang 5, Jeon 5, Apelo 2, Chan 2, Sula 2.

G-Rollers 52 – Faisao 19, Hossain 11, Santos 8, Vertudez 6, Deleon Guererro 4, Norita 2, Orejola 2.

Scoring by halves: 23-14, 62-52.

Mountain bike race to benefit charity

The Marianas Visitors Authority in conjunction with the Hyatt Regency Saipan will be staging the Inaugural Ayuda Charity Mountain Bike Race on May 31.

Entry fee for kids is \$10 and \$15 for beginners and participants in the open division. All proceeds will go into a charitable trust fund account that will provide an opportunity for non-profit organizations to submit a grant application. Details of this program are currently being developed and will be made available once finalized.

The kids race will consist of a two-mile bike race for eight years to 12 years of age. The course will start at Microl Beach and will head north onto the

beach pathway then it will turn around right before you pass the Smiling Cove Marina Boating Safety Section.

The race will start at 7am and check-in is at 6:30am. The Top 3 finishers will win prizes. All participants will receive a Tourism Month T-shirt.

The Mountain Bike Race will consist of a short course (four miles) for beginners and a long course (eight miles) for open division participants.

Both races will start at the American Memorial Park (Microl Beach entrance) at 6:30am. All participants who are interested must check-in at 6am. Both beginners and open division bikers will start at the same time at 6:30am

final 20 minutes of the game to finish with 26 markers. He also had two assists and grabbed seven of the Sonics' season-low 11 rebounds.

John Villanueva added 14 points and had a game-high seven steals as G-Rollers guards went sloppy with their ball handling skills.

G-Rollers had one less in steals 13-14, but enjoyed a 26-11 lead in rebounds, and 11-4 in assists. They also blocked four shots against the one of G-Rollers' courtesy of Melvin Cadiang.

Ecalnea lifts Sonics past G-Rollers

By JON PEREZ

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REPORTER

Tristan Ecalnea overcame a slow start to lift the Southern Sonics to a 62-52 win over G-Rollers in Friday's 14-and-under division of the Northern Youth Basketball Association's 16-and-under league at the Garapan court.

Ecalnea only had eight points in the first half but waxed hot with 18 in the

TOC donates \$36K to landscape 'Port To Park' pathway



The Tournament of Champions recently donated \$36,000 to assist with landscaping the "Port to Park"

pathway that was recently installed.

TOC chair Ben Babauta said the donation was made through funds raised by its annual golf tournament that benefits the Saipan Beautification Fund.

TOC—in its 13th year—has become the premier golf tournament in the region.

This year's tournament will be played on Aug. 2 and 3 at Laolao Bay Golf Resort. With 288 players scheduled to play this two-day tournament, TOC looks forward to raising more money for the Saipan Beautification Fund.

Over the past 12 years, TOC has raised in excess of \$500,000 for the fund.

"TOC was enthusiastic about donating to this very worthwhile project," said Babauta. "Continuing to raise funds to enhance the beauty of Saipan remains our No. 1 goal."

Entry forms may be picked up at the second floor executive offices at DFS Galleria, at

Babauta

Laolao Bay Golf Resort or online at www.tocsaipan.com.

Jess "Mr. Unorthodox" Wabol won his second straight Tournament of Champions title in last year's 12th TOC at the Laolao Bay golf Resort.

Wabol bested 12 other golfers and tamed the east and west course at Laolao by shooting a two-day total of 150 for a four-shot lead over closest pursuer and opening day leader Edward R. Flores 154 (75-79).

Wabol shot a 76 in the first day of competitions but bounced back with a 74 in the final day to snatch the TOC Championship Flight title from Flores' hands.

The former Oleai Elementary School principal also won the TOC Championship Flight in 1998, 2000, and 2006. Ladies Flight veteran Noriko Togawa had the most number of wins with six including a string of five straight victories from 2001 to 2005.

Also completing her second consecutive title was rising teen golfer Leina Kim in the Ladies Flight. She posted a 15-stroke lead over Togawa, who won the inaugural event in 1996.

Other division winners were Gi Yeong Kim (A); Edward H. Cho (B); Gerald Guerrero (C); Ed Manibusan (Seniors); Lito Mendoza (Super Seniors); and Rose Tarpley (Ladies Low Net).

Japanese golfer Koji Hashimoto, who made the trip to Saipan from Osaka to join the TOC, also made a hole-in-one in the first day of the tourney. The Saipan tourist aced the 17th hole of Laolao's west course to win a 2008 Mitsubishi Lancer. (Mark Rabago)



Price Costco stuns Xterminators, Pacers nail 3rd win

Price Costco caught the Advance X-Terminators on their off night to score a thrilling 97-96 overtime win in Sunday night's open division game in the 2008 FMI Inter-Color Basketball League at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Duncan scores 22 as Spurs beat Hornets

Tim Duncan had 22 points and 15 rebounds, and the San Antonio Spurs beat the New Orleans Hornets 100-80 on Sunday night in Game 4 to even the Western Conference semifinals at 2-2.



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28 TUESDAY, MAY 13, 2008

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Late-inning rally lifts Jets in Junior league

By JON PEREZ

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A late-inning scoring surge carried the Juan S. Tenorio Jets to a 10-7 win over the Kagman Lion Hearts in Sunday's Junior League game at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

The Jets scored eight runs in the final three innings to rally from a 7-2 deficit and secure their ninth win in 12 games, while the Lion Hearts of Reps. D Salas and Rosmond Santos dropped to a 7-5 mark.

McGarette Duenas pitched five shutout innings in relief giving up three hits while striking out three batters and walking one more. He relieved Joe Palacios in the bottom of the fourth.

Duenas forced the Lion Hearts to hit fly balls, grounders, and line drives, which the Jets defense fielded cleanly to avoid further damage.

Harry Nakamura went 4-for-5 with three runs and a double for the Jets.

Ol'Aces 8, Fielders 1

Ol'Aces' bullpen starred for the team in breezing through an 8-1 win over the Fielders on Saturday.

Lamarc Iguel pitched two shutout innings in the start allowing two hits with two strikeouts and no walks, while Kevin Yamada tossed two innings in relief surrendering one unearned run on one hit fanning four with one walk.

Patrick Tenorio scored the Fielders' lone run in the third inning, reaching home plate on a throwing error by Ol'Aces catcher Jesse Yamagishi.

Rocco Reyes pitched three shutout and no-hit innings retiring five batters with no walk.

Peter Tenorio earned the loss lasting six innings on the

mound and was tagged with three earned runs on four hits while striking out five batters and walking five more.

A.J. Taitano went 2-for-2 for Ol'Aces to go with his two runs and a double.

SENIOR LEAGUE D9ers 9, Lion Kings 4

Chad Atalig tossed four scoreless innings to lead the Plus Marketing-Pacific Bio Medical Services Inc. D9ers to a 9-4 win over the Lion Kings of Kagman on Sunday.

Atalig gave up two hits with three strikeouts and two walks before being relieved by Nick Cruz in the bottom of the fifth. Cruz allowed one earned run on four hits with no strikeout and two walks.

Jared Camacho and Eric Tenorio combined for 4-for-6 in batting and also scored two runs. Tenorio also had a double and an RBI triple in the first inning. Ben Taisacan went 3-for-4 with one run and four RBIs.

The loss wasted Wally Emul Jr.'s 3-for-3 performance at the plate. He also scored twice and had two triples.

Fielders 3, Dolphins 1

Anthony Tenorio pitched in no relief in the Tan Holdings Fielders' 3-1 win over the PTI Dolphins on Saturday.

Tenorio gave up four hits retiring four batters and walking four more as he held the Dolphins to 4-for-22 in batting or a .181 average.

Ofero Taitano, who walked, scored the lone run for the Dolphins rounding the bases on an Anthony Rogolifo double.

Tom Agulto went 2-for-4 with one run and two RBIs for the Fielders.

See LATE-INNING on Page 26



Tako Camacho of the Tanapag Falcons winds up a pitch in this file photo taken in one of their games in the Big League division of the Saipan Little League at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

JON PEREZ

'Geckos to prepare harder next year'



JON PEREZ

Members of the Saipan International School Lady Geckos celebrate with coach Rob Epley after winning Friday's championship game against the Mt. Carmel School Lady Knights at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

By JON PEREZ

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REPORTER



Saipan International School Lady Geckos coach Rob Epley said they would

have to prepare doubly harder if they want to keep the title for the fourth straight year.

Epley, in a telephone interview yesterday, said he expects rough sailing for his wards next

year since his two top players have used up their eligibility. Epley coached the Geckos for the past three years.

Gone in Epley's lineup for SIS' fourth straight title bid are the top scoring combination of Melissa Halaby and Madison Smith. "Melissa [Halaby] is a graduating senior while Madison [Smith] is going to college next year."

Caroline Lachaby, who is a reserve for the Geckos, will also

be leaving. "She is a role player and we will also be losing her."

Epley said he would schedule more practice sessions for the team to prepare for next season, which he expects to be a lot tougher. "We will practice a lot for next year. This year we got by on athletic ability since two of my players are also members of the CNMI National Women's Football Team."

Smith and Zoe Jewell's time

See GECKOS on Page 26

SOCC lines up more events

By JON PEREZ

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REPORTER



The Saipan Outrigger Canoe Club are showing no signs of slowing down as they are preparing for two or three more events that they will either be doing or competing in for the year.

SOCC member and 3rd Tinian Crossing organizer Richard Sikkell, who is one of the brains behind the annual Tinian Crossing, said they are first preparing for

the third Dragon's Triangle Challenge on June 7 when they will again circumnavigate the island of Saipan.

According to the SOCC website, the Dragon Triangle is a 36-mile change-out race around the island of Saipan passing through the waters of the Devil's Sea.

SOCC also plans to join the Molokai Hoe but that will depend on the funding but they are definitely going to Guam to defend their title in the annual Micro Cup in October this year. SOCC is aiming for

See SOCC on Page 26



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The six-member crew of the Saipan Outrigger Canoe Club rides the wave along the Tinian Channel in last week's 3rd Annual Tinian Crossing.

JCI golf fundraiser this weekend

JCI Junior Chamber International

will hold its 16th golf fundraiser on May 17 at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort west course.

Organized by the local chapter of the JCI, the golf tournament aims to raise money to fund the group's yearly cultural exchange program. This year, JCI CNMI again plans to bring local high school students to South Korea.

The tournament, dubbed simply as the JCI Golf Fundraiser, will have two categories—open and ladies. Champions from both divisions will each receive \$300 and second and third placers will take home in-kind prizes.

It will utilize the Calloway system to compute the net scores of participants. Aside from the cash and in-kind prizes a spanking new 2008 Mazda MP3 sports sedan will be awarded to the lucky golfer who managers a hole-in-one in the JCI Golf Fundraiser.

Sign-up and registration for the event is 11:30am on game day itself, May 17.

Proceeds from the competition will help pay part of the

See JCI on Page 26